



H I study of isolated and paired galaxies: the MIR SFR- M_\star sequence

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ABSTRACT

Using mid-infrared star formation rate and stellar mass indicators in *WISE* (*Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer*), we construct and contrast the relation between star formation rate and stellar mass for isolated and paired galaxies. Our samples comprise a selection of AMIGA (Analysis of the interstellar Medium in Isolated GALaxies; isolated galaxies) and pairs of ALFALFA (Arecibo Legacy Fast ALFA) galaxies with H I detections such that we can examine the relationship between H I content (gas fraction, H I deficiency) and galaxy location on the main sequence (MS) in these two contrasting environments. We derive for the first time an H I scaling relation for isolated galaxies using *WISE* stellar masses, and thereby establish a baseline predictor of H I content that can be used to assess the impact of environment on H I content when compared with samples of galaxies in different environments. We use this updated relation to determine the H I deficiency of both our paired and isolated galaxies. Across all the quantities examined as a function of environment in this work (MS location, gas fraction, and H I deficiency), the AMIGA sample of isolated galaxies is found to have the lower dispersion: $\sigma_{\text{AMIGA}} = 0.37$ versus $\sigma_{\text{PAIRS}} = 0.55$ on the MS, $\sigma_{\text{AMIGA}} = 0.44$ versus $\sigma_{\text{PAIRS}} = 0.54$ in gas fraction, and $\sigma_{\text{AMIGA}} = 0.28$ versus $\sigma_{\text{PAIRS}} = 0.34$ in H I deficiency. We also note fewer isolated quiescent galaxies, 3 (0.6 per cent), compared to 12 (2.3 per cent) quiescent pair members. Our results suggest the differences in scatter measured between our samples are environment driven. Galaxies in isolation behave relatively predictably, and galaxies in more densely populated environments adopt a more stochastic behaviour, across a broad range of quantities.

Key words: galaxies: evolution – galaxies: star formation – galaxies: interactions – radio lines: galaxies.

1 INTRODUCTION

The correlation between a galaxy’s star formation rate (SFR) and its stellar mass (M_\star) (the ‘galaxy main sequence’ or MS) is well established, with numerous studies in the past decade demonstrating it to be both real, and able to provide keen insight into the processes driving star formation (SF) in galaxies (Noeske et al. 2007; Bouché et al. 2010; Lee et al. 2015). The galaxy MS diagram shows a trend of increasing SFR with increasing M_\star that begins to plateau for $M_\star > 10^{10.5} M_\odot$ (Noeske et al. 2007). This value for stellar mass is where the break in the stellar mass–halo mass relation occurs via virial shock heating (Behroozi, Wechsler & Conroy 2013). As we look to higher redshifts, the shape of this relationship remains similar, however with the entire sequence evolving to higher SFRs (Speagle et al. 2014; Lee et al. 2015; Whitaker et al. 2015). The bulk of SF thus appears to have occurred earlier in massive galaxies compared to less massive systems (Noeske et al. 2007). For a spiral galaxy, any deviations from the MS likely indicate a break from secular evolution. Quenching events can cause a galaxy to drop suddenly below the MS, while a starburst phase will cause a galaxy to migrate upwards off the MS.

Galaxy structure is also correlated with SFR. Numerous observations have revealed star-forming galaxies (SFGs) to be less concentrated than quiescent galaxies at a fixed mass (Whitaker et al. 2015). The causal relationship between a galaxy’s morphology and its SF history, however, is not well understood. The process by which a blue star-forming spiral galaxy transforms into a red and dead elliptical galaxy, the physical mechanism that quenches SF in galaxies, remains one of the biggest puzzle pieces still missing from our picture of galaxy evolution. Current theories for what shuts down SF in galaxies can be categorized into two main classes, internal processes [starburst and active galactic nucleus (AGN) feedback (McNamara et al. 2000; McNamara & Nulsen 2007; Ciccone et al. 2014), mass quenching, and ‘morphological quenching’ (Martig et al. 2009)] and external processes, e.g. harassment (Moore et al. 1995), ram-pressure stripping (Gunn, Gott & Richard 1972), viscous stripping (Nulsen 1982), and strangulation (Peng, Maiolino & Cochrane 2015). In contrast to quenching, starburst galaxies are also observed. During starburst events galaxies undergo rapid SF causing them to jump upwards off the MS (Rodighiero et al. 2011, Elbaz et al. 2011, Schreiber et al. 2015). These events are short lived, and galaxies likely ultimately settle back on to the MS, however with substantial additional mass. The circumstances leading to such events remain unclear, as well as the prevalence of this phenomenon.

McPartland et al. (2018), in their investigation into quenching via internal processes, found the SFR- M_\star relation to be linear for

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a sample of SFGs from the DR7 SDSS catalogue with $H\alpha$ -derived SFRs. Inclusion of Composite, Seyfert 2, and LINER galaxies on the MS, however, produces a flattening in the relation at $M_\star > 10^{10.5} M_\odot$, beyond which a negative slope is observed. Furthermore, it was found that the reddest galaxies with the largest bulge-to-total (B/T) ratios had SFRs > 1.5 dex below the MS, leading McPartland et al. (2018) to conclude that the quenching of SF in massive galaxies is strongly associated with AGN activity, with bulge growth an important pathway to this quenching. Similar results are reported by Morselli et al. (2018) who studied the spatial distribution of both stellar mass and SF activity in a sample of 712 galaxies at $0.2 < z < 1.2$ (excluding AGN and merging systems) from the GOODS field (Giavalisco et al. 2004) with high-resolution UV data from the *Hubble* Deep UV Survey. Galaxies above the MS were found to be more extended compared to their MS counterparts at fixed stellar masses, while galaxies below the MS, where SF was centrally suppressed, were mostly bulge dominated. Quiescent galaxies, defined as those lying 1 dex below the MS, exhibited the highest instances of central SF suppression. With SF centrally enhanced and suppressed in galaxies above and below the MS respectively, the results of Morselli et al. (2018) support the scenario in which galaxies quench from the inside out.

Wang, Kong & Pan (2018) also investigated the link between galaxy structure and quenching, and incorporate the role of H I in their study. Using a sample of ~ 1600 galaxies from the NASA Sloan Atlas catalogue within the Arecibo Legacy Fast ALFA (ALFALFA) footprint, Wang et al. (2018) investigated the two-step quenching scenario of compaction and quenching by comparing SFRs of compact star-forming galaxies (cSFGs) with extended star-forming galaxies (eSFGs). It was found that at fixed stellar mass, the cSFGs exhibited similar or slightly higher SFRs compared to the eSFGs, as well as higher gas-phase metallicities. Moreover, the eSFGs were found on average to be more gas rich than the cSFGs, and had a median H I gas-depletion time-scale of ~ 8 Gyr compared to a median gas depletion time of ~ 4 Gyr for the cSFGs. With the environments of the eSFGs and cSFGs indistinguishable in their sample, Wang et al. (2018) conclude that galaxies evolve from eSFGs to cSFGs before joining the quenched population via an environment independent scenario of compaction and quenching. Bitsakis et al. (2019) looked at the MS for galaxies from the Calar Alto Legacy Integral Field Area (CALIFA) survey and found the cessation of SF to be the combined result of gas deficiency and the inefficiency of the remaining gas to form new stars. The authors attribute the latter to the build-up of a bulge component (morphological evolution). In their exploration of alternative SF suppression mechanisms, Bitsakis et al. (2019) found that the action of bars, AGN activity, local galaxy environment, as well as galaxy mergers, have only temporary effects on current SF, and are not responsible for the permanent quenching of SF.

Studying SF as a function of redshift, Tacconi et al. (2013) find molecular gas content principally responsible for the cosmic evolution of the SFR. Using CO measurements provided by the Plateau de Bure High- z Blue Sequence Survey (PHIBSS) and looking at the MS from the perspective of molecular gas content, Tacconi et al. (2018) view gas fraction as a measure of a galaxy's gas accretion rate (regulated by mergers/fluctuations in gas transport along the cosmic web), and SF efficiency as related to internal galaxy properties. Their study shows SF efficiency to remain roughly constant as stellar mass increases, while gas fractions decrease. These results again point to the importance of considering the gas components of galaxies when seeking to understand their location above, below, or on the MS.

The above-mentioned studies have thus far either neglected galaxy environment, or found it to be unimportant with respect to the quench-

ing of SF. Cochrane & Best (2018), however, find strong evidence for environment-driven quenching in satellite galaxies. Probing the roles of mass and environment quenching in galaxy evolution, Cochrane & Best (2018) studied the relationship between halo mass, stellar mass, and SFR using the pioneering cosmological hydrodynamical simulation, EAGLE (Evolution and Assembly of GaLaxies and their Environments). Ellison et al. (2010) also look at the role of environment in enhancing/suppressing SF by studying galaxy pairs in Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS). Instances of triggered SF were only observed in low-to-medium density environments, which the authors attribute to the higher gas fractions typical of low-density environments, while mergers in high-density environments are mainly without SF. The recent study of Pearson et al. (2019) compared SFRs between large samples of merging and non-merging galaxy systems from the KiDS (Kilo-Degree Survey) and CANDELS (Cosmic Assembly Near-infrared Deep Extragalactic Legacy Survey) imaging surveys. While large differences in SFR were occasionally observed, galaxy mergers in general were found to have little impact on SFRs, causing only minor shifts of ~ 0.1 dex above and below the MS. Moon, An & Yoon (2019) further investigate the influence of companions on SFR by considering different types of companions, namely SF companions versus quiescent. Their study shows quiescent neighbours acting to suppress SF in their counterparts, while SF neighbours enhance SF in their companions. Both effects are enhanced as the projected separation between companions is reduced. An earlier study by Xu et al. (2010) studied SFR enhancement in close galaxy pairs in the Local Universe, however distinguished between spiral pairs (S+S) and spiral galaxies paired with ellipticals (S+E). No enhancement in SFR was observed in the S+E pairs, and the SFR enhancement observed in the S+S pairs was shown to be highly mass dependent, with significant SFR enhancement only occurring in massive ($M_\star > 10^{10}$) S+S pairs. A follow-up study by Xu et al. (2012) revealed a negative cosmic evolution of SFR enhancement in S+S pairs, and attribute this to the trend of increasing gas fraction with redshift. In high gas fraction scenarios, the gas disc experiences less gravitational torque from the stellar disc, and less disc gas is funnelled to the nucleus via loss of angular momentum.

While the literature reports conflicting conclusions as to the role of environment in determining a galaxy's location on the MS (above or below, enhanced/suppressed SF), the location of isolated galaxies on the MS has yet to be determined. Constructing a sample of truly isolated galaxies is a non-trivial endeavour, one to which the AMIGA project (Analysis of the interstellar Medium in Isolated Galaxies; Verdes-Montenegro et al. 2005) is dedicated. The AMIGA project is an in-depth multiwavelength study of isolated galaxies in order to distinguish galaxy properties arising from secular evolution, from those which result from external influences (see Section 2.1 for details). It can thus be used to probe how galaxy interactions might enhance/suppress SF, which we ascertain by their location on the MS diagram relative to the baseline AMIGA MS.

A key objective of this work is to construct a MS for isolated galaxies that can be used as a reference for different galaxy samples to probe the role of environment in governing galaxy location on the MS. In this way we also seek to gain insight into the processes responsible for the shutting down of SF in a nurture-free environment, where one is unable to point the finger at an interfering companion. Since interacting systems are inherently dusty by nature, construction of our MS makes use of mid-infrared (MIR) indicators in *WISE* (*Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer*; W3 is sensitive to warm dust) to compute stellar masses and SFRs. Details of these measurements can be found in Section 3.

This paper is organized as follows: Our sample selection and data is described in Section 2, and the updated AMIGA H I scaling relation is presented in Section 3. We put forward and discuss our results in Section 4, namely the MS for our isolated and paired galaxies in Section 4.1, gas fraction in Section 4.2, and H I deficiency in Section 4.3. In Section 5, we discuss the relationship between gas (gas fraction and H I deficiency) and quenching in galaxies. Our main results and conclusions are summarized in Section 6. Throughout this paper, we adopt a Lambda cold dark matter (Λ CDM) cosmology with $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega_M = 0.3$, and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$.

2 SAMPLE

2.1 Sample of isolated galaxies

Our sample of isolated galaxies comprises galaxies selected from the AMIGA project. The AMIGA project provides the most extensive multiwavelength study of a well-defined sample of isolated galaxies drawn from the Karachentseva (1973) Catalogue of Isolated Galaxies (CIG). The original criteria of Karachentseva (1973) classify a galaxy as isolated only if it is separated (in projection) from any neighbouring galaxy of isophotal diameter of between 1/4 and 4 times its own diameter (in B band) by at least 20 times the diameter of the potential neighbour, that is, it is separated from the largest of these potential neighbours by at least 80 times its own diameter. As part of the AMIGA project, the degree of isolation was first re-evaluated by Verley et al. (2007b) by analysing Digitized POSS-IE images of each CIG galaxy and constructing a catalogue of potential neighbours. Quantification of the degree of isolation was introduced by Verley et al. (2007a) by way of two complimentary isolation parameters, namely η and Q , which measure the projected surface density of neighbours out to the 5th nearest neighbour and the tidal force exerted by neighbouring galaxies, respectively. Cuts based on these two parameters were enforced to eliminate any outlying cases which may not be strictly isolated. In addition, any CIG with a heliocentric redshift of less than 1500 km s^{-1} was removed as isolation is difficult to ensure for such nearby targets as a very large sky area must be considered. This left ~ 700 galaxies in the AMIGA sample that adhere to strict isolation criteria such that for the past ~ 3 Gyr they are unlikely to have interacted with any neighbour of significant mass (Verdes-Montenegro et al. 2005). Argudo-Fernández et al. (2013) reassessed the isolation of AMIGA galaxies using both photometric and spectroscopic data from the ninth data release of the SDSS-DR9. The η and Q metrics were recalculated based on the SDSS images, which led to an additional 16 per cent of the CIG galaxies failing the isolation criteria due to fainter neighbours being identified in the SDSS images. However, in the fields with spectroscopic data the same metrics were recalculated, but with the requirement that any neighbours must be within 500 km s^{-1} in redshift, which resulted in an equivalent fraction of the CIG galaxies being classified as isolated as in Verley et al. (2007b). Furthermore, galaxies that are classified as isolated by one of these works are not necessarily classified as isolated in the other. Therefore, given that the Verley et al. (2007a) analysis covers the full sample, whereas Argudo-Fernández et al. (2013) misses a significant fraction due to the limits of the SDSS footprint, we draw our sample of isolated galaxies from the ~ 700 galaxies that meet the Verley et al. (2007a) criteria. The AMIGA team have further characterized the different components/phases of the interstellar medium (ISM) of these isolated galaxies, as well as their stellar components, in various different wavelengths, including (i) optical (Verdes-Montenegro et al. 2005), (ii) FIR (Lisenfeld et al. 2007), (iii) radio-continuum (Leon et al. 2008), and (iv) H α emission

Table 1. Size of isolated galaxy sample after each successive cut.

	Sample size
HI Science sample	544
With <i>WISE</i> measurements	518
$M_{\text{HI}} > 10^9 M_\odot$	482
$M_\star > 10^{8.5} M_\odot$	481

Table 2. Size of H I pair sample after each successive cut.

	Sample size
Close H I pairs	282
Unique pair members (with $M_{\text{HI}} > 10^9 M_\odot$)	557
$M_\star > 10^{8.5} M_\odot$	531

(Verley et al. 2007b), as well as (v) nuclear activity (Sabater et al. 2008, 2011). Full details of the AMIGA project and their extensive research on isolated galaxies are available at <http://amiga.iaa.es>.

H I data is available for a subsample of the full AMIGA catalogue, the AMIGA H I science sample (Jones et al. 2018). We restrict our study to the H I science sample to assess the role of H I in determining the MS locations of our isolated galaxies. The AMIGA H I science sample (Jones et al. 2018) is an H I subset of Karachentseva (1973) 1050 CIG galaxy catalogue. H I spectra from the literature were compiled for 415 of these galaxies [see Table 1 in Jones et al. (2018) for observation details], and AMIGA conducted their own observations of 488 galaxies using the Arecibo, Effelsberg, Greenbank, and Nançay radio telescopes. [A summary of the AMIGA H I observations is displayed in Table 2 of Jones et al. (2018).] 429 of the 488 CIG galaxies observed by AMIGA made it into the H I catalogue, and together with the 415 galaxies with spectra published in the literature, the final AMIGA H I science sample comprises 844 galaxies in total. All spectral parameters of this catalogue were extracted using the same fitting method, including the cases where existing observations from the literature were used, and as such this catalogue is considered a highly uniform H I data base of isolated galaxies. Jones et al. (2018) further provide cuts to the H I sample based on completeness, isolation, and profile quality. For the purposes of our study, we select only those galaxies within the complete AMIGA H I science sample that have been flagged as reliably isolated, with high quality H I profiles (544 galaxies in total). Morphological classification of the AMIGA sample conducted by Sulentic et al. (2006), and later revisions by Buta et al. (2019), show the AMIGA sample to be spiral galaxy dominated, specifically intermediate to late-type (Sb-Sc). A photometric analysis conducted by Durbala et al. (2008) revealed the sample to be more symmetric, less concentrated, and less clumpy when compared to galaxies selected without isolated criteria.

2.2 H I pair sample

For an environmental comparison to our isolated galaxy sample, we construct a catalogue of close H I pair galaxies from the ALFALFA survey (Giovanelli et al. 2005), namely the $\alpha 70$ catalogue, for which integrated H I profile masses are also available. Details of the catalogue are discussed in Haynes et al. (2011) and Haynes et al. (2018). We use projected (Δr) and velocity (Δv) separations to identify a sample of potentially interacting H I galaxies to compare the impact of interactions on gas supply and SF on the SFR/ M_\star sequence. We do not exclude triples, compact groups, and groups, but

rather impose a minimum environment condition that each galaxy in our sample has at least one nearby H I neighbour. We only consider pairs in which both components have a minimum integrated H I profile mass of $10^9 M_\odot$, marking the steep cut off in H I mass below which ALFALFA detects relatively few galaxies. A step-by-step description of our pair finding method follows here:

(i) For each $\alpha 70$ galaxy ($M_{\text{HI}} > 10^9 M_\odot$) flagged as being reliably detected and with a spectroscopic counterpart in SDSS DR7 (primary galaxy), we compute the two-dimensional distance (in degrees) to its nearest $\alpha 70$ neighbour (secondary galaxy) satisfying the same criteria. As a consequence of this selection criterion, our sample is biased towards spiral+spiral pairs, with spiral+elliptical pairs making it into the sample less frequently.

(ii) This distance is then converted to an angular separation using kpc conversions calculated at the redshift of the primary galaxy.

(iii) The velocity separation is then computed for each pair using spectroscopic redshifts in SDSS. Photometric redshifts are highly uncertain compared to spectroscopic redshifts, therefore insisting upon spectroscopic redshifts minimizes uncertainty in the calculation of Δv , and hence the potential for spurious pairs being introduced into our sample.

(iv) We construct our sample of interacting galaxies from those pairs for which the projected separation is less than 100 kpc, and Δv is less than 1000 km s^{-1} , with a minimum angular separation of 5 arcsec. Our Δr and Δv cuts match the broadest selection used by Robotham et al. (2014) to denote ‘close pair galaxies’. We note that a Δv of 1000 km s^{-1} is more indicative of galaxies in the same group/large scale structure, however, very few of our pairs have velocity separations exceeding 800 km s^{-1} , with the majority of the sample having $\Delta v < 400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.

We find a sample of 282 gas-rich pairs in total, in which there are 7 incidents of multiplicity (galaxies paired with more than one galaxy), and therefore 557 unique pair members. As a result of the requirement that both pair candidates have $M_{\text{HI}} > 10^9 M_\odot$, the resulting pair sample comprises mainly systems with stellar mass ratios of ~ 1 . A quick qualitative visual inspection of the H I pair sample demonstrates that it is similarly spiral galaxy dominated, however with the inclusion of notably more interesting and irregular morphologies as well. We also note a range of local environments including isolated pairs, triples, and compact group candidates. While this paper focuses solely on differences in quantities measured between isolated galaxies and a control sample of galaxies that are in close arrangements (primarily pairs), we will address in detail the role of local environment in an upcoming paper where we quantitatively establish the local environments of our H I pair sample. Optical and MIR images of galaxies from the AMIGA sample are shown side by side for reference in Fig. 1, and optical images of some example galaxies from our pair sample are shown in Fig. 2.

2.2.1 H I blending in the pair sample

Of the ALFALFA pairs sample, approximately 50 per cent of the galaxies were noted as being in some form of blend with their neighbour(s) when source extraction was performed by the ALFALFA team. Given the approximately 3.5-arcmin beam of the Arecibo telescope in the L band and the close proximity of the pairs considered, this high rate of blending is not unexpected. For approximately 3/4 of the blends, the human extractor from the ALFALFA team reported that the sources were separable to some degree, and thus that the sources parameters should not be heavily

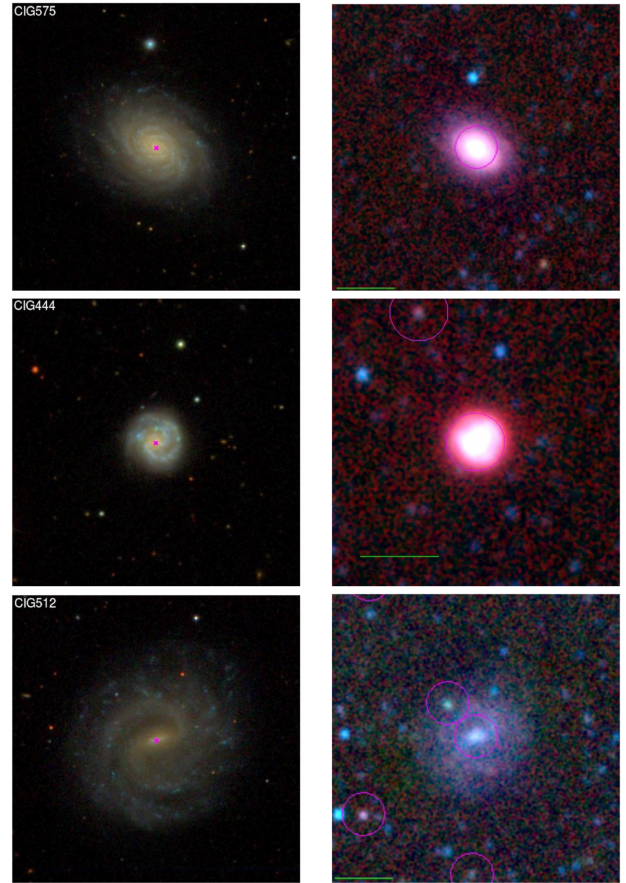


Figure 1. 3.5 x 3.5 arcmin SDSS cutouts (left column) of galaxies from the AMIGA-WISE sample with the corresponding WISE images shown alongside (right column). The green line in each WISE image marks a 1-arcmin scale, magenta ellipses mark the location of the primary galaxy in each image, as well as any potential galaxy candidates in the field.

biased. The ALFALFA team performed this separation either by careful tailoring of the extraction box, both on the plane of the sky and in velocity space, or in more severe cases by interpolating over heavily affected regions of the source profile. The H I spectra of our pairs were all individually inspected and those with significant signs of blending were removed (49 galaxies in total). It should be noted that the removal of blended galaxies was done on an individual basis, rather than considering a pair as a single object. This is because in pairs with large mass ratios, blending can be severe for the smaller member, but almost negligible for the larger member. In these cases, although the H I properties of the smaller member may be unusable, the larger member is still in a pair and therefore belongs in the sample. We do not exclude these galaxies when only their location on the MS is considered as their stellar masses and SFRs, measured by WISE with its 6 arcmin (W1) and 9 arcmin (W3) beams, are still valid. We mark the location of these sources on the MS in Fig. 6 by blue squares, and discuss a few representative cases in Appendix B.

2.3 Mass cuts

The recession velocities, M_\star , and M_{HI} distributions of the AMIGA-WISE and H I pair samples are shown in Fig. 3. While both samples probe a similar recession velocity range, we note fewer AMIGA-

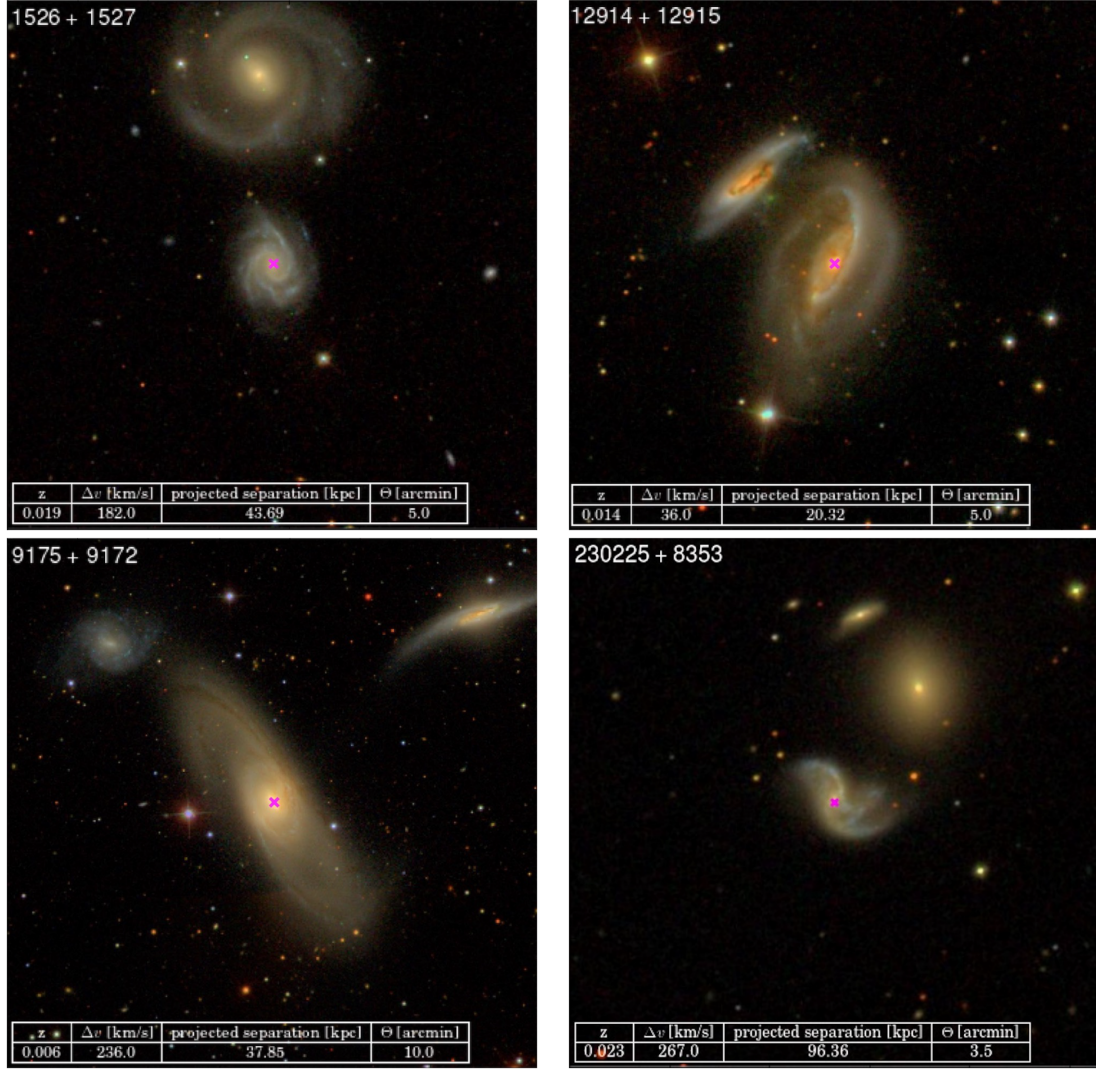


Figure 2. SDSS cutouts of four galaxy pairs from the H I pair sample. In each image, the redshift, velocity [km s^{-1}], and projected [kpc] separation between the pair members, as well as the field of view of the image, are tabulated in the bottom-left corner. We note that the galaxy pairs shown in the bottom panel are in fact members of groups.

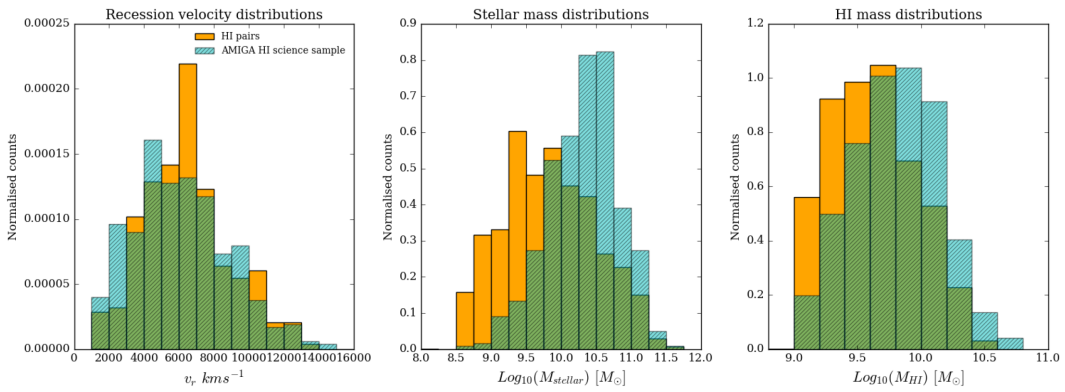


Figure 3. From left to right: v_r , M_\star , and M_{HI} distributions of the AMIGA H I science (cyan) sample and H I pair (orange) samples.

WISE galaxies occupying the lower M_\star and M_{HI} bins compared to the pair sample. We attribute the missing dwarfs in AMIGA to the particular isolation criterion used in which galaxies below 1500 km s^{-1} are excluded so as to avoid searching a prohibitively

large area of sky for neighbours [see Verley et al. (2007b) for details on the isolation criteria]. Due to their low luminosity, dwarfs are only likely to be detected if they are nearby, excluding nearby galaxies therefore specifically excludes dwarfs from the AMIGA sample. To

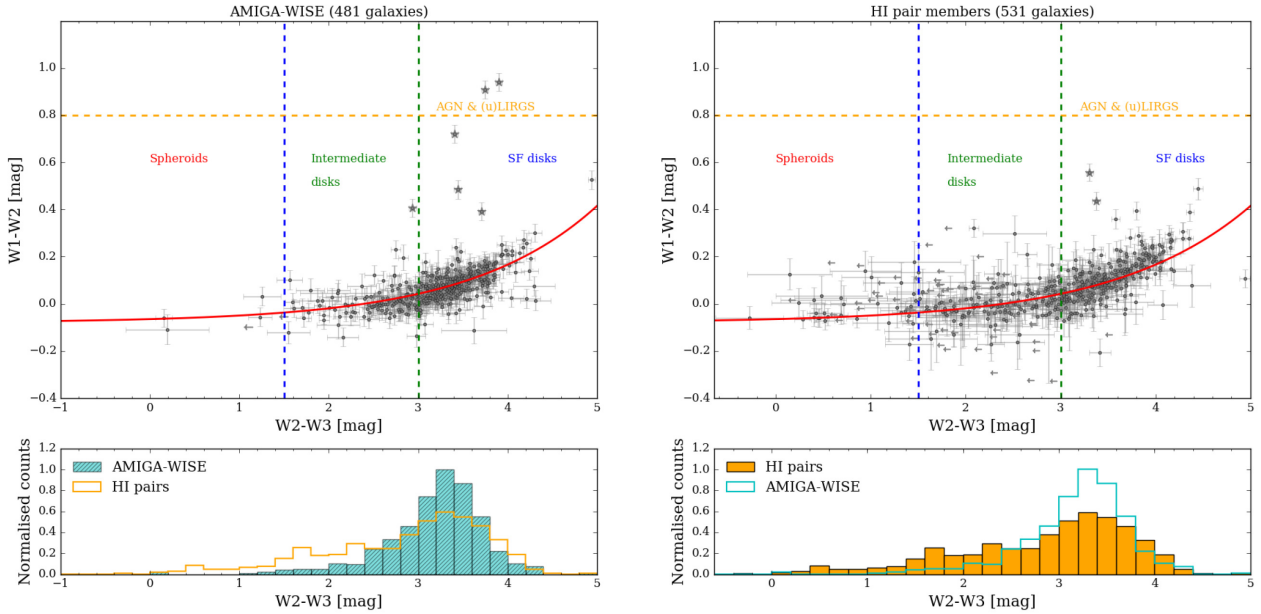


Figure 4. *WISE* colour–colour diagrams for both the AMIGA-*WISE* (left) and H I pair (right) samples, with the corresponding W2-W3 histogram distributions indicated below each diagram. Upper limits are depicted by grey arrows, and the red curve marks the galaxy MS of Jarrett et al., (2019). MIR AGN candidates are indicated by stars.

mitigate the effect of missing dwarfs in our AMIGA sample, when we compare them with our pair sample we implement a stellar mass cut of $M_* > 10^{8.5} M_\odot$ across both the AMIGA and H I pair samples. Very few AMIGA galaxies exist below this stellar mass limit, and the H I pair galaxies in this low-mass regime correspond to the sources with the largest uncertainties in both their stellar mass and SFR measurements. Exclusion of these low-mass sources improves the quality of our study by minimizing uncertainty, and ensuring the two samples are comparable. Our final AMIGA sample comprises 481 galaxies, which we refer to as the AMIGA-*WISE* sample, while 531 galaxy pair members in our H I pair sample survive the stellar mass cut. We further refine and control our analysis by mass-matching our two samples in stellar mass. Our mass-matched samples are created by randomly selecting equal numbers of galaxies in each stellar mass bin. The number of galaxies chosen in each bin is dictated by the sample with the least amount of galaxies available in the bin. The final sample selection criteria are summarized in Tables 1 and 2 for the isolated and pair samples, respectively.

2.4 *WISE* colours and AGN activity

In Fig. 4, we make use of the *WISE* colour–colour diagram as a diagnostic for estimating galaxy activity in our samples, with which galaxy morphology is largely correlated. [See section 5.3.3 and fig. 26 in Jarrett et al. (2011) and Jarrett et al. (2019), respectively, for a full description of the *WISE* colours and what they indicate.] Grey arrows mark the upper limits, and the galaxy sequence derived by Jarrett et al. (2019) is overlaid in red. The tightness of the AMIGA-*WISE* sample sequence is reflected in the corresponding histogram of W2-W3 colour (cyan histogram), which appears to have a single peak in the star-forming disc region of the diagram. In contrast, we see more colour diversity in the H I pair sample, not only in the broader distribution and larger scatter of galaxies on the colour–colour diagram, but also in the W2-W3 distribution (orange histogram). The increased scatter we observe in the pair sample

relative to AMIGA appears to arise from photometric uncertainties, not to mention systematics that may arise from the fact that the pairs are in complex systems, where deblending from a companion and (if applicable) from other group members is required. The higher frequency of upper limits in the pair sample indicate lower SFRs compared to AMIGA, hinting at the presence of a larger low/no SF population compared to the AMIGA-*WISE* sample.

In the left-hand panel of Fig. 4, we identify six galaxies in the AMIGA-*WISE* sample that are ‘warm’ in the MIR according to their location on the MIR colour–colour diagram (i.e. well above the galaxy sequence). These galaxies are indicated by stars in Fig. 4. Sabater et al. (2008) classified five of these galaxies as AGN using FIR and radio continuum (CIG248, CIG692, CIG993, CIG671, and CIG1004). Of the two such candidates identified in the H I pair sample (right-hand panel), NGC 5900 is also a known Seyfert galaxy. The remaining warm MIR galaxies have emission that may be SF dominated, arise from dust-obscured AGN, or result from a combination of SF and AGN activity. Disentangling SF from AGN activity is non-trivial, however, for the purposes of this work, we conclude that due to the small number of identified AGN candidates, these galaxies are unlikely to affect our results in any substantial way, and thus disregard them as significant contaminants. Furthermore, their locations on the MS in Fig. 6 (black stars) demonstrate that these galaxies are not outliers, and therefore do not skew our results.

2.5 *WISE* B/T measurements

Galaxy morphology is often quantified by decomposing the disc (rotational kinematics, younger populations) and bulge or spheroidal (random motions, older components) and comparing their integrated light properties. For *WISE* W1 (3.4 μm) imaging, Jarrett et al. (2019) estimate the bulge and disc light fractions using the axisymmetric radial distribution, modelled with a double Sersic profile consisting of the inner bulge and the extended disc components. For normal galaxies, the resulting near-infrared B/T ratio should provide infor-

mation on the stellar populations that comprise the bulk mass of the galaxy. Jarrett et al. (2019) showed that galaxies with passive or no SF have high ratios, $B/T > 0.5$, indicating dominant spheroidal populations, and conversely lower-mass SFGs have low ratios, $B/T < 0.3$, younger disc-dominated systems, while intermediate-transition galaxies have B/T ratios that range across the spectrum. Due to the large beam of *WISE* (6 arcsec), small and compact galaxies have uncertain decompositions. The AMIGA-*WISE* and H I pair sample B/T measurements are presented and discussed in Section 5.

2.6 *WISE* stellar mass and SFR measurements

Any inference we make from a galaxy's location on the MS is only as valuable as the SFRs and stellar masses that we use are accurate. To this end, we make use of mid-infrared M_\star and SF indicators in *WISE*; Wright et al. (2010) to supply reliable stellar masses and SFRs. The *WISE* W1 3.4 μm and W2 4.6 μm bands trace the stellar mass distribution in galaxies, and the W3 12 μm and W4 22 μm bands are sensitive to the ISM emission from SFGs, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and warm dust, respectively (Jarrett et al. 2013; Cluver et al. 2017). Using total infrared luminosity (L_{TIR}) to calibrate the *WISE* W3 and W4 SFRs, Cluver et al. (2017) found W3 to be particularly good at tracing SFR, measuring a 1σ scatter in the relation of 0.15 dex over 5 orders of magnitude. Provided deep silicate absorption features and AGN are excluded, the W3 SFR can be considered reliable. The W4 relation has a slightly higher scatter in contrast ($1\sigma = 0.18$ dex), however both the W3 and W4 relations agree with radio continuum-derived SFRs, as well as the 'hybrid' $H\alpha$ and FUV SFR indicators. In this paper, stellar masses are computed using a combination of the *WISE* W1 3.4 μm and W2 4.6 μm bands and corresponding mass-to-light ratios from Cluver et al. (2014), and SFRs are obtained using the W3 12 μm band and Cluver et al. (2017) W3 relation (equation 1).

$$\text{LogSFR}(M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}) = (0.889 \pm 0.018) \text{Log}L_{12\mu\text{m}}(L_\odot) - (7.76 \pm 0.15) \quad (1)$$

Given the relatively large beam size of *WISE*, blending of galaxies is a general problem, and is addressed accordingly in the *WISE* characterization pipeline. We note that our H I pair sample includes deblended measurements for six galaxy pairs, marked on the MS by red squares in Fig. 6, which shows them all to be star-forming, and relatively high mass. Adequate deblend solutions are measured for these galaxies, which are well within the scatter of SF-MS, and therefore not excluded from our analysis. Full details of the *WISE* deblending process in general, as well as on a case-by-case basis, are discussed in Appendix A.

A comparison of the *WISE* stellar masses measured for our isolated sample and optical stellar masses calculated by Fernández Lorenzo et al. (2013) show them to be highly consistent, and as such we rule out uncertainty in the stellar masses as a significant source of bias.

3 AN UPDATED AMIGA H I SCALING RELATION

In the seminal study of H I properties of isolated galaxies, Haynes & Giovanelli (1984) computed the H I scaling relation for 324 CIG galaxies. Using optical diameters as a proxy for stellar mass, this relation predicts the H I content of galaxies on the secular evolution track, and has been widely used since to determine the quantity 'H I deficiency' defined as:

$$\text{DEF} = \log M_{\text{HI}}^{\text{exp}} - \log M_{\text{HI}}^{\text{obs}}, \quad (2)$$

where $M_{\text{HI}}^{\text{exp}}$ is the expected H I mass at a given stellar mass, and $M_{\text{HI}}^{\text{obs}}$ is the H I mass observed.

With isolated galaxies providing a baseline for 'normal' H I content, computing this quantity for galaxies subject to various different environmental conditions allows one to gauge the impact of environment on H I content. A galaxy's environment might act to deplete it of its H I content, in which case a positive value for H I deficiency is measured, while negative values for H I deficiency indicate an excess of H I is present. A revised H I scaling relation was measured by Jones et al. (2018) using the AMIGA H I science sample. In addition to using a sample superior in both sample size (544 galaxies versus 324) and purity, Jones et al. (2018) also use a more sophisticated regression model to fit the scaling relations. They find that an isolated galaxy's H I content can be predicted by either its optical *B*-band luminosity or diameter with an accuracy of about 0.25 dex.

In this work, we update the scaling relation of Jones et al. (2018) using *WISE* W1 3.4 μm stellar mass measurements as an H I predictor. The relationship between stellar and H I mass is more commonly computed in the literature for different galaxy samples. Updating the scaling relation used to compute H I deficiency to rely on stellar mass allows for a direct comparison with various relations in the literature, as well as a direct assessment of how environment impacts H I content. In Fig. 5, we illustrate our updated H I scaling relation using *WISE* stellar masses for the AMIGA H I science sample. We fit the H I scaling relation using the maximum likelihood method (for detections) described in Jones et al. (2018). This method incorporates the measurement uncertainties in both parameters and performs a 3σ rejection to remove outliers (which removed the 3 points significantly below the main relation). The resulting relation is described in equation (3) and illustrated in Fig. 5 as a thick black line.

$$\text{Log}_{10}(M_{\text{HI}})[M_\odot] = 0.44 \times \text{Log}_{10}(M_\star)[M_\odot] + 5.19, \quad \sigma = 0.33 \quad (3)$$

Pink shading indicates the 1σ offset of the relation, and the dark green line marks the fit of Parkash et al. (2018) for a sample of spiral galaxies. A galaxy's location on the M_\star/M_{HI} plane above or below the relation suggests either an excess or deficiency in H I content relative to what one would expect of a galaxy in a 'nurture free' environment. The scatter in this relation suggests there is some leeway in gas content via consumption and feedback evolution. Our isolated galaxy and pair samples lie above the horizontal dashed blue line as per the H I mass cut ($M_{\text{HI}} > 10^9 M_\odot$).

4 RESULTS

4.1 The SFR/ M_\star sequence: Isolated galaxies versus galaxy pairs

In Fig. 6, we see the M_\star/SFR sequence for the full isolated galaxy (left) and pair (right) samples, respectively. Upper limits on SFR are marked by grey arrows for sources that have been detected in W3, but show no signs of SF activity. These sources are bright and blue in the MIR, with continuum emission dominating the W3 band. The grey arrows most likely mark galaxies that are old and bulge-dominated in morphology. Green arrows mark the location of sources undetected in W3. No W3 emission in nearby galaxies indicates that the presence of dust re-emission from obscured SF is lacking or minimal, a condition not uncommon for dwarf galaxies.

The AMIGA-*WISE* MS (cyan dashed line) relation is computed in HYPERFIT for a star-forming subsample of the full sample (474

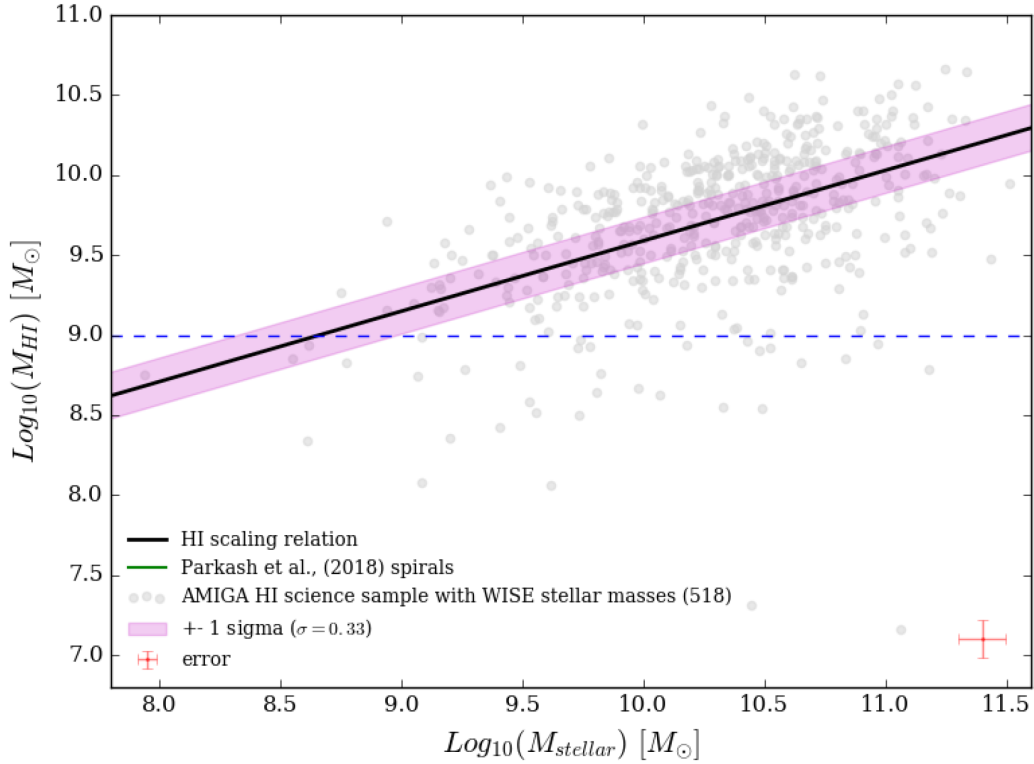


Figure 5. The H I scaling relation (solid black line) for the AMIGA H I science sample galaxies (grey points) with the 1σ region shaded in pink. The relation is described by the equation $\text{Log}_{10}(M_{\text{HI}})[M_{\odot}] = 0.44 \times \text{Log}_{10}(M_{\star})[M_{\odot}] + 5.19$, $\sigma = 0.33$. The dark green line indicates the Parkash et al. (2018) H I scaling relation for spiral galaxies, and the dashed blue line marks the H I mass cut applied to both our isolated and pair samples ($M_{\text{HI}} > 10^9 M_{\odot}$). Galaxies below this line are not included in the AMIGA-WISE sample.

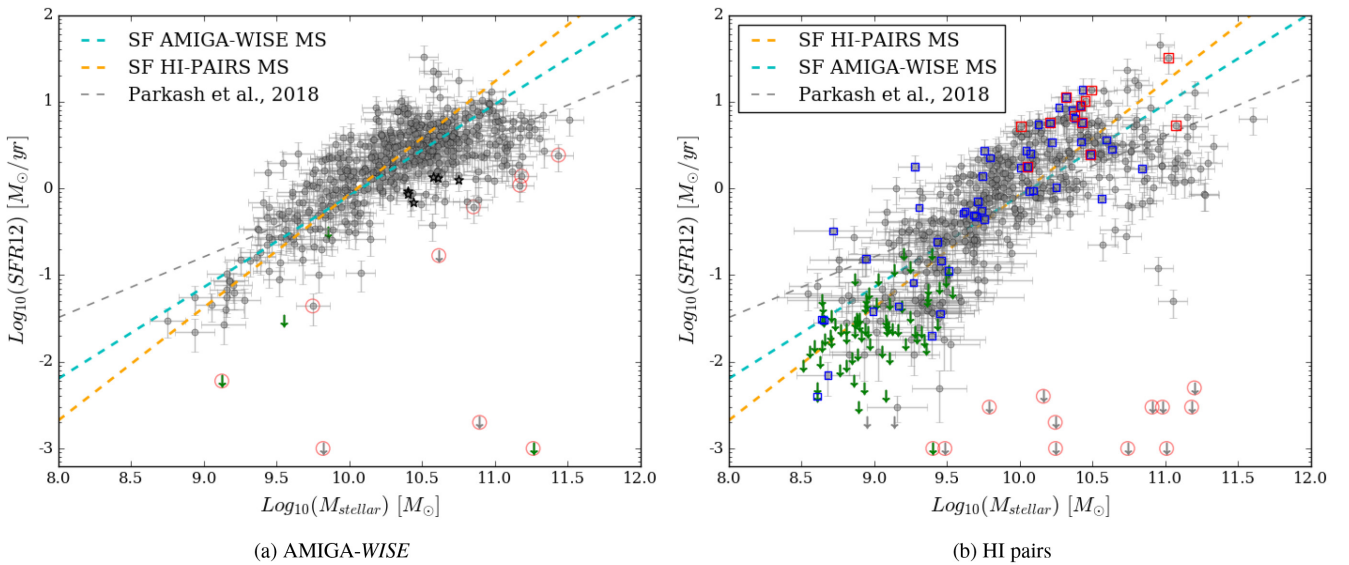


Figure 6. The MIR galaxy main sequence. Upper limits on SFR are depicted by downward facing arrows (green arrows indicate no W3 emission has been detected, and grey arrows indicate sources that have been detected in W3, but show no SF). Quiescent galaxies are circled in red, and black stars represent AGN candidates. The AMIGA-WISE, H I pair, and Parkash et al. (2018) MS lines are shown by cyan, orange, and grey dashed lines, respectively. Instances of blending in WISE are marked by red squares, and blue squares identify instances of severe blending in H I that we remove from our H I analysis.

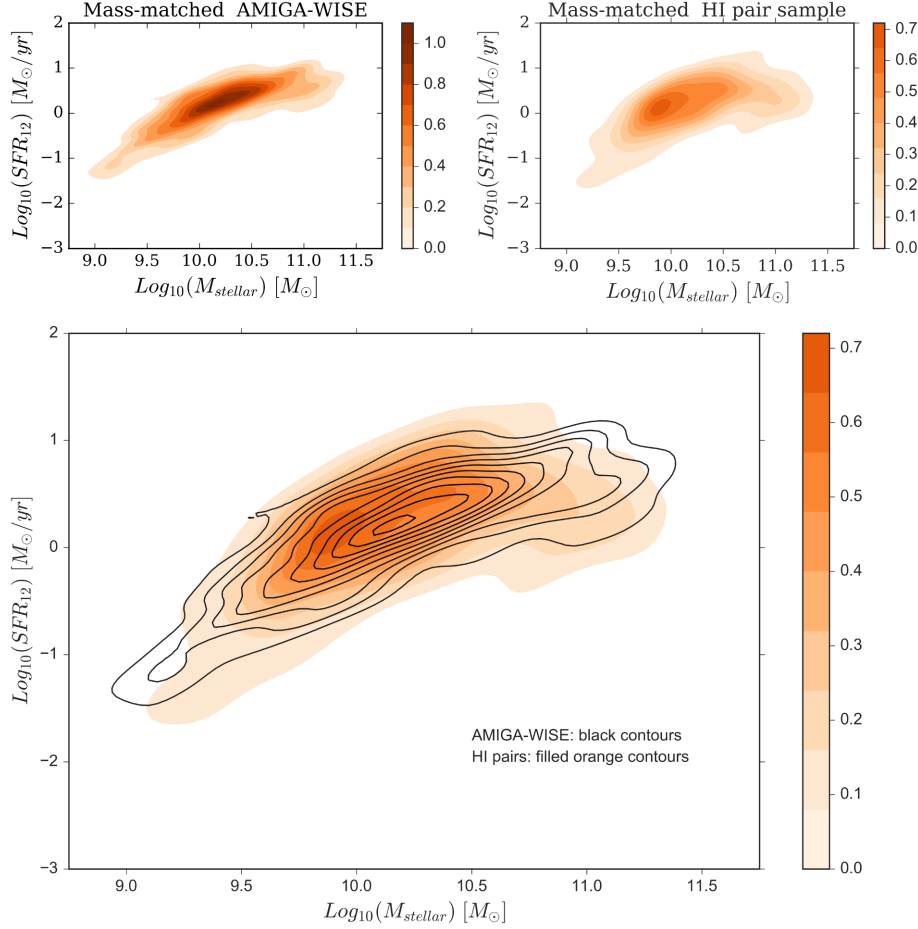


Figure 7. Top panel: Filled contour density plots of the AMIGA-WISE MS (left) and HI pair MS (right). Bottom panel: Filled contour density plot of the HI pair sample (filled orange contours) with the AMIGA-WISE contours overlaid in black.

galaxies) excluding upper limits and outliers. The HI pair MS relation (dashed orange line) is computed in the same way for a sample of 454 galaxies. The relations can be found in equations (4) and (5), respectively.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Log}_{10}(\text{SFR}_{12})[\text{M}_{\odot}\text{yr}^{-1}] &= 1.05 \times \text{Log}_{10}(M_{\star})[\text{M}_{\odot}] \\ &-10.63, \sigma = 0.37 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Log}_{10}(\text{SFR}_{12})[\text{M}_{\odot}\text{yr}^{-1}] &= 1.30 \times \text{Log}_{10}(M_{\star})[\text{M}_{\odot}] \\ &-13.10, \sigma = 0.55 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Not only do we observe a flatter MS slope for the AMIGA-WISE sample, but also a reduced scatter. The steeper slope of the pair MS is indicating higher SF as a function of stellar mass, and is consistent with the findings of Ellison et al. (2010).

Focusing specifically on SFGs, however, without any environmental selection, Speagle et al. (2014) report a general MS scatter of ~ 0.2 based on 64 MSs from 25 papers in the literature. We propose the significantly larger scatter we measure for our pair sample ($\sigma = 0.55$) is environment driven.

According to the Bluck et al. (2016) criterion for passive galaxies, we note a significantly larger number of quenched galaxies in the pair sample compared to our sample of isolated galaxies (45 versus 12). These galaxies, which lie at least 1 dex below the MS relation, are

circled in red in Fig. 6. The larger population of quenched galaxies at high stellar masses in the pair sample perhaps hints at quenching via interaction. These galaxies lie primarily in the spheroid region of the MIR colour diagram with W2-W3 colours < 2 mag. WISE colour images of these sources appear blue due to their emission being W1 $3.4 \mu\text{m}$ dominated.

In Fig. 7, we plot the density contours of both samples. In the top two panels of the plot, we see how the AMIGA-WISE sample (left) reaches higher densities compared to the HI pair sample (right), and peaks at a heavier stellar mass. We also note a more pronounced turnover and flattening out of the MS at $M_{\star} \approx 10^{10.5} \text{ M}_{\odot}$ in the pair sample [consistent with Noeske et al. (2007) and Behroozi et al. (2013)]. In the bottom panel, we overlay the AMIGA-WISE contours (black contours) on the pair sample filled contour plot for a more direct comparison of the samples. Here, we see the AMIGA-WISE central density offset to higher stellar masses compared to the pair sample. A visual representation of the decreased scatter in the AMIGA-WISE MS (0.37 versus 0.55 for the pairs) is also apparent in the tightness of the AMIGA-WISE contours relative to the pair sample. Galaxies in isolation appear to behave in a relatively predictable manner, tightly confined to the MS. This is often referred to as ‘secular evolution’ (Kormendy & Kennicutt 2004). Introducing companions into the environment appears to produce more stochastic behaviour on the SFR- M_{\star} plane.

4.2 Gas fraction on the SFR/ M_\star sequence

As per Section 2.2.1, 49 instances of severe blending in the H I pair sample are excluded from our H I analysis due to having unreliable H I data. In Fig. 8, we plot the gas fraction distributions of both the original (left) and mass-matched (right) AMIGA-*WISE* (cyan) and H I pair (orange) samples. Here, gas fraction is defined as $\text{Log}_{10}(M_{\text{HI}}/M_\star)$. In both panels, the cyan histogram refers to the AMIGA-*WISE* sample and the orange histogram corresponds to the pairs, with cyan and orange dashed lines marking the corresponding distribution medians. Focusing first on the left-hand panel, the original AMIGA-*WISE* and H I pair samples, the pair sample appears to be shifted towards higher gas fractions. We measure a median gas fraction value of -0.16 and $\sigma = 0.58$ for the pair sample, while a significantly lower median and sigma value is measured for the AMIGA-*WISE* sample, median $= -0.51$ and $\sigma = 0.43$. We note, however, that the distributions become very similar when the samples are matched in stellar mass (right-hand panel). Here, we see very similar medians for both samples, -0.42 and -0.47 for the AMIGA-*WISE* and H I pair samples, respectively. This highlights the importance of controlling for stellar mass as a driver of galaxy properties. The difference between the two mass-matched samples is however evident in the respective widths of the distributions. We can see by eye that the pair sample distribution is slightly broader than the AMIGA-*WISE* distribution, with a larger fraction of the pair sample occupying the higher and lower gas fraction bins. This is reflected by the corresponding measured sigma values: $\sigma_{\text{pairs}} = 0.54$ versus $\sigma_{\text{A-W}} = 0.44$. This means for a given stellar mass bin, the pairs show greater variation in gas fraction. Even though there is a scaling relation between stellar mass and H I mass, stellar mass does not appear to constrain the spread of gas fraction. The breadth in gas fraction could therefore be contributing to the increased scatter observed on the pair MS (see Fig. 7).

Fig. 9 shows how gas fraction behaves on the MS. We see similar trends of decreasing gas fraction with increasing stellar mass on the MS for both the AMIGA-*WISE* and H I pair samples. These results suggest that galaxies, regardless of environment, build up their stellar mass content while their H I reservoirs are correspondingly depleted, in agreement with the work of Saintonge et al. (2016). The sample of Saintonge et al. (2016) lacks any pre-selection against environmental features and the same trend of decreasing gas fraction along the MS is observed. We also note a larger fraction of high gas fraction (H I dominated) sources in the low stellar mass regime of the H I pair sample compared to the AMIGA-*WISE* sample. Our pair sample selection allows for groups of galaxies, and 14 counts of multiplicity confirms the inclusion of triples/small groups (2 or more galaxies paired to the same companion). Visual inspection of the sample suggests the presence of additional potential triples, compact groups, and groups in which additional companions do not satisfy the mass selection criteria of this study. The increased fraction of high gas fraction galaxies in the pair sample may be related to the increased availability of H I in overdense regions in the cosmic web of H I galaxies. These low mass and H I rich galaxies are missing from the AMIGA-*WISE* sample due to their isolation criterion, which not only eliminates galaxies in pair and group environments, but is biased against nearby dwarf galaxies. In the high stellar mass regime, we note that gas fraction alone does not predict a galaxy's location on the MS. High-mass galaxies with low gas fractions can be found both on and near the MS, as well as significantly below it in a region we conservatively define as reserved for quenched galaxies (red circles in Fig. 9). The majority of the high stellar mass galaxies with low gas fractions found outside the 'quenched'

region of the MS are located just below the MS, possibly in the process of dropping off the MS to join the quenched population galaxies. The colours of these galaxies, in the act of quenching, are what we call intermediate discs, sometimes referred to as: 'green valley'.

While gas fraction is widely used in the literature, we note that the relation is not linear, and that a significant residual remains when the M_{HI}/M_\star ratio is taken. Gas fraction is therefore not the most appropriate quantity to use to determine 'normalcy'. We consider H I deficiency is the more robust quantity to use in this regard.

4.3 H I deficiency on the SFR/ M_\star sequence

Fig. 10 shows the stellar mass/H I mass planes for both the AMIGA-*WISE* (left) and H I pair (right) samples with the updated AMIGA H I scaling relation overlaid (black dashed line; equation 3). The AMIGA-*WISE* galaxies form a tight sequence on the M_\star/M_{HI} plane as indicated by the tightness of the contours. The paired galaxies form a more irregular sequence in comparison, with fewer tightly spaced contours and a secondary central density potentially indicating two 'flavours' of paired galaxies on the M_\star/M_{HI} plane: a low-mass sequence and a high-mass sequence. Both samples are concentrated above the relation suggesting that the presence of excess H I is more frequent than a deficiency of H I in both samples. This result is likely a consequence of the imposed lower limit on stellar and gas mass discussed in Section 2.5, which makes the AMIGA-*WISE* sample a gas-rich subset of the AMIGA sample.

In the top panel of Fig. 11, we show the distributions of H I deficiency for both the AMIGA-*WISE* (left) and H I pair (right) samples. Here, we use the standard definition for deficiency, where positive values indicate that a galaxy has less H I than expected given its stellar mass, and lies below the AMIGA H I scaling relation in the M_\star/M_{HI} plane, and negative H I deficiency values indicate an excess of H I. These galaxies lie above the relation. Categorizing the galaxies in each sample as either deficient ($\text{DEF} > 0.25$) or in excess of H I ($\text{DEF} < -0.25$), we find a slightly higher fraction of deficient galaxies in the pair sample (18 per cent compared to 12 per cent in the sample of isolated galaxies), while both samples have similar fractions of galaxies with an H I excess (27 per cent and 30 per cent in the isolated and pair samples respectively). A closer inspection of the deficiency distributions overlaid on each other (bottom panel of Fig. 11), reveals an additional subtle difference between the two distributions. In the inner deficiency bins, from roughly $\text{DEF} = -0.5$ to 0.25 , the AMIGA-*WISE* (cyan) distribution lies above the pair (orange) distribution. Conversely, in both the high and low deficiency bins, the pair sample dominates. This is reflected in the width of the distributions. While the samples have very similar mean values (-0.07 versus -0.05 for the AMIGA-*WISE* and pair samples, respectively), the width of AMIGA-*WISE* sample (marked by vertical dashed cyan lines) is noticeably narrower than the pair sample (orange dashed lines), with a standard deviation of 0.28 compared to 0.34 for the pair sample. The Anderson-Darling (A-D) test (Scholz & Stephens 1987) confirms a statistically significant difference between the samples, and the null hypothesis that the samples that are drawn from the same sample can be rejected at the 1 per cent level. Jones et al. (2018) present a similar comparison between their H I deficiency values for the AMIGA H I science sample and a sample of isolated pairs. They find that the isolated pair sample has more H I deficient galaxies than the AMIGA sample. A similar comparison with galaxies in the Virgo Cluster and the AMIGA sample demonstrates an even larger difference in H I deficiency values, with the Virgo Cluster galaxies exhibiting

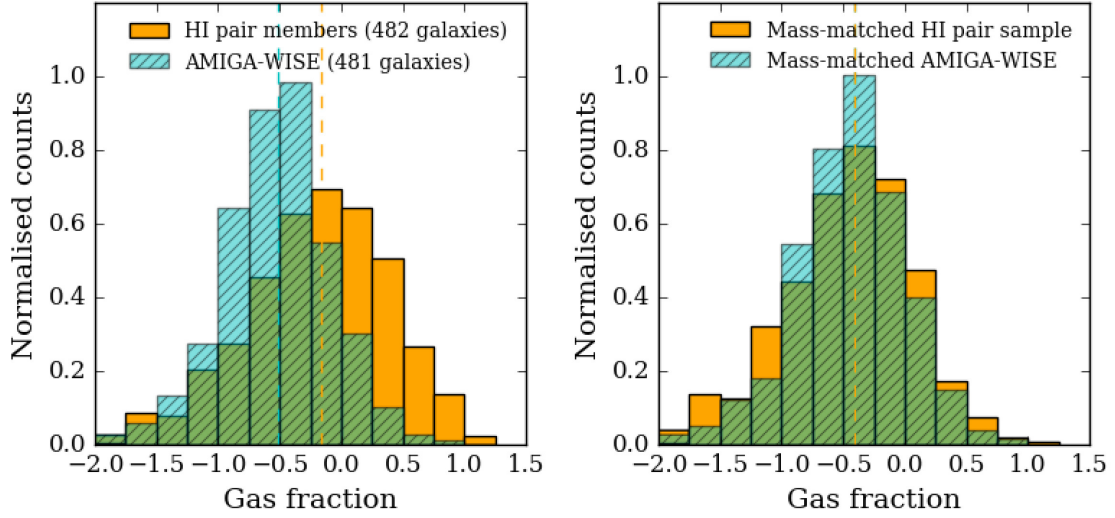


Figure 8. Gas fraction distributions for the full pair (orange) and AMIGA-WISE (cyan) samples are shown on the left, with the corresponding mass matched sample distributions on the right. Vertical dashed orange and cyan lines indicate the respective median gas fraction values for the pair and isolated galaxy samples. These lines merge to occupy the same location on the plot when the samples are matched in stellar mass.

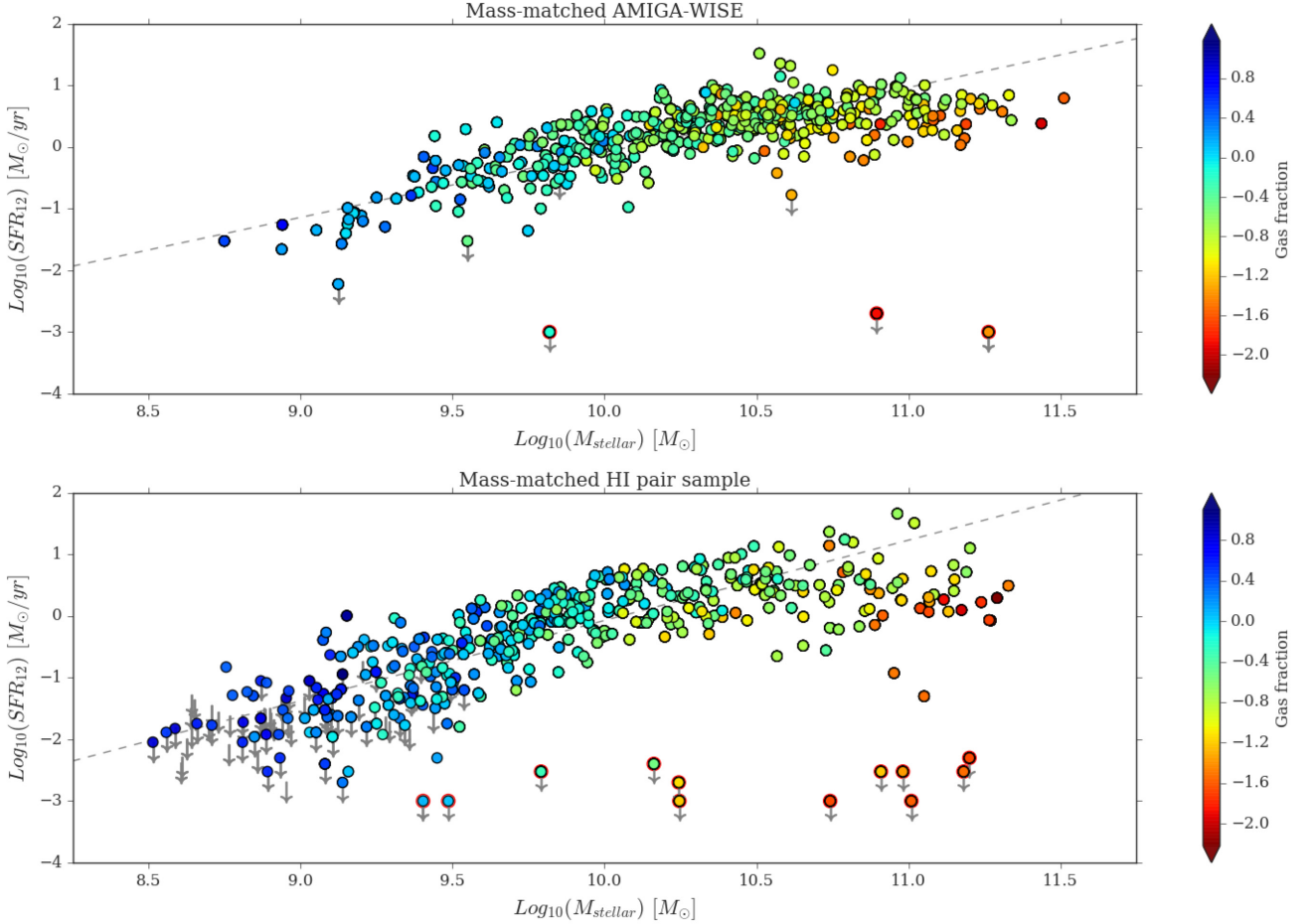


Figure 9. Enlarged views of the SFR/ M_\star sequence for both the statistical AMIGA-WISE (top panel) and H I pair (bottom panel) mass-matched samples colour coded by gas fraction. Grey arrows indicate upper limits on SFR, of which there are noticeably more in the H I pair sample, concentrated in the lower mass bins. Red circles mark the location of the low star-forming/quenched galaxy candidates. In both samples, we see a trend of decreasing gas fraction with increasing stellar mass. We also note in the pair sample an increased availability of galaxies to choose from in the low stellar mass bins in the randomized re-sampling process of mass-matching to the AMIGA sample.

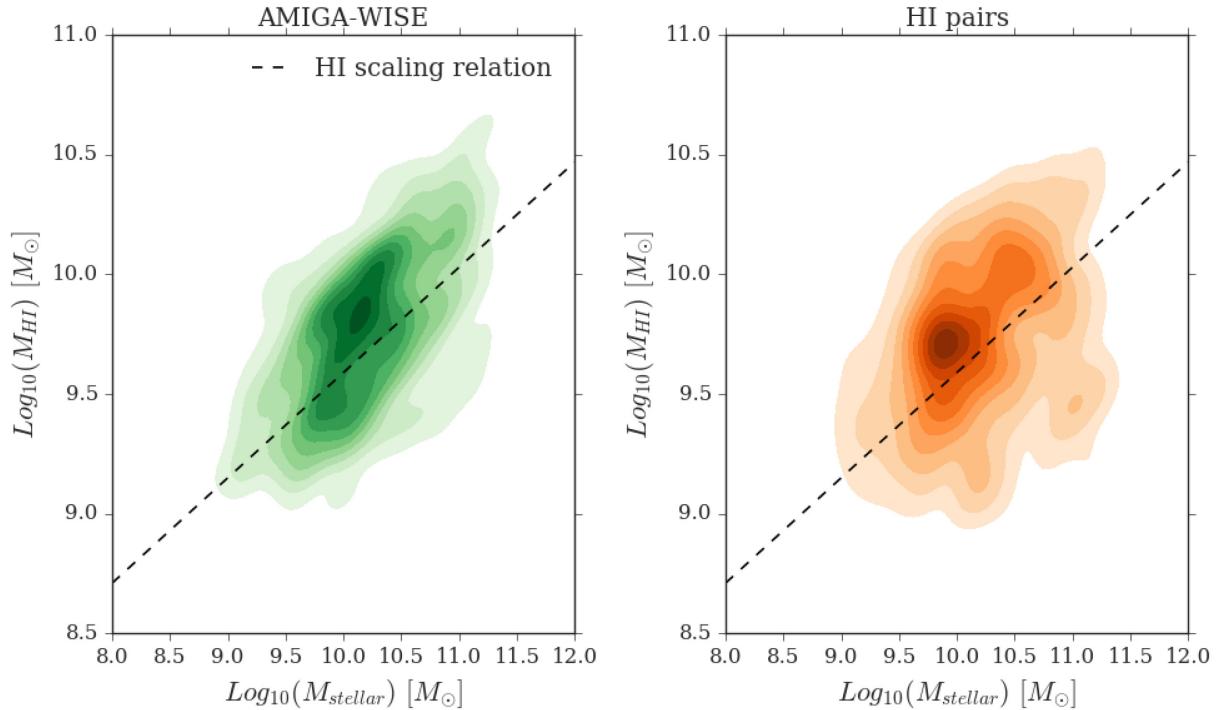


Figure 10. The AMIGA-WISE (left) and HI pair (right) samples on the stellar mass-HI mass plane. For reference, the updated AMIGA HI scaling relation (dashed black line, equation 3) is overlaid. It is important to note that the slope of the HI scaling relation takes into account AMIGA galaxies with $M_{\text{HI}} < 10^9 M_{\odot}$ that are specifically excluded from the AMIGA-WISE sample. The AMIGA-WISE sample is thus a gas-rich subsample of the AMIGA HI sample, and as such is biased towards galaxies with an excess of HI (located above the relation).

significantly higher HI deficiency values compared to the AMIGA sample. The findings of Cortese et al. (2011), Dénes, Kilborn & Koribalski (2014), and Jones et al. (2018), to name a few, suggest that interactions play a role in depleting a galaxy of its HI content. This work suggests that environment is responsible for broadening the deficiency distribution of a galaxy sample in both directions, towards higher and lower deficiency values.

In Fig. 12, we see the AMIGA-WISE (top panel) and HI pair sample (bottom panel) SFR/ M_{\star} sequences colour coded by HI deficiency. Again, we see a trend of increasing deficiency with stellar mass, but also a broad trend of increasing deficiency with increasing SFR implicating a link between the availability of HI and a galaxy’s ability to form stars. This trend is cleaner in the AMIGA-WISE sample such that one could almost always predict the rough location of an isolated galaxy on the MS given its HI deficiency value. This is not the case in the pair sample where we observe highly deficient galaxies both on/near the MS, as well as well below it in the quenched galaxy region. Similarly, for lower masses and lower deficiencies, we see galaxies lying both on and below the MS. In both cases, one might confuse an SFG with a quiescent galaxy if only HI deficiency is considered. This is highly consistent with the picture in which environment drives MS scatter. Focusing specifically on quiescent galaxies, the low mass, high gas fraction population of galaxies discussed in Section 4.2 tend to be inefficient at forming at stars despite having an excess of HI (small HI deficiencies). The second population of high-mass low gas fraction galaxies have large HI deficiencies. Looking at the fraction of deficient galaxies per stellar mass/SFR bin on the MS in Fig. 13, the predictable nature of the isolated galaxy sample is demonstrated as bands of nearly uniform deficiency fractions. Each bin has a width of 0.5 dex in stellar mass and height of 0.5 dex in SFR (measured from the respective MS

lines), and is colour coded according to the fraction of galaxies with $\text{DEF} > 0.25$ (blue: fraction = 0–0.15, green: fraction = 0.15–0.3, orange: fraction = 0.3–0.45, and red: fraction > 0.45). The lowest band in the isolated sample is the exception with multiple bins of fractional deficiency making up the band, however the fraction is consistently above 0.25 indicating that galaxies more than 0.5 dex below the MS are more likely to be HI deficient. The pair sample, in contrast, shows more variance in each band. Bins with larger fractions of deficient galaxies are spread more liberally above and below the MS, although still more frequently below.

5 DISCUSSION

In Section 4.2, we note the presence of a quenched population of galaxies in both the AMIGA-WISE and HI pair samples. Here, we adopt a more conservative definition of quiescence to only include those galaxies that have fallen well below the MS, not only 1 dex below it as per Bluck et al. (2016). We circle these galaxies in red in Fig. 9, 3 in the AMIGA-WISE sample and 12 in the HI pair sample. With environment selected to be the controlled variable between the two samples, we propose that the increased number of quenched galaxies found in the pair sample is environment-driven. Visual inspection of the quenched pair members reveals a potentially broader environment at play that includes triples and small groups.

In both samples, we note two flavours of quenched galaxies, those with a low stellar mass and high gas fraction (LM-HG), and those with a high stellar mass and low gas fraction (HM-LG). The LM-HG galaxies also have low HI deficiencies (i.e. gas rich), and the HM-LG galaxies have high HI deficiencies (i.e. gas poor). A likely scenario for the quenching of the latter population of galaxies is simply consumption of fuel. As neutral hydrogen is converted to stars via

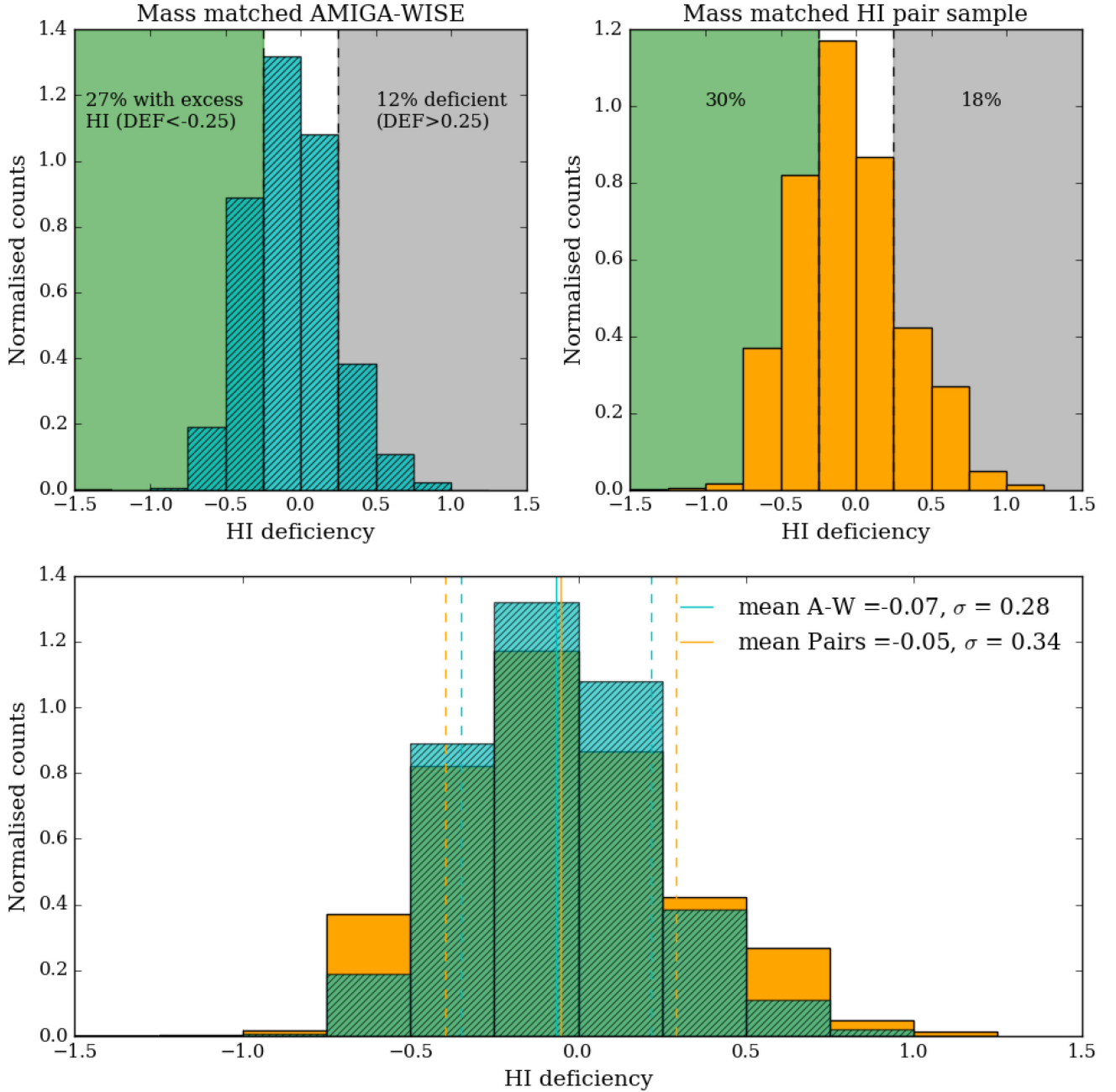


Figure 11. Top: distribution of HI deficiency for the AMIGA-*WISE* (left) and HI pair (right) samples. Grey shading marks the HI deficient regions in each sample, and the green shading shows the region of HI excess. Bottom: AMIGA-*WISE* HI deficiency distribution (cyan) overlaid on the HI pair deficiency distribution. Cyan and orange vertical dashed lines mark the respective distribution widths.

molecular gas, the HI content of the galaxy decreases while the stellar mass content increases, thus producing high stellar mass galaxies with depleted gas fractions. The increased frequency of quenched galaxies, as stellar mass increases, we observe is consistent with the findings of Cluver et al., 2020, who make the same observation for samples of field and grouped galaxies from the Galaxy and Mass Assembly survey (GAMA) with *WISE* photometry, and attribute this result to mass quenching.

Considering morphology, in Fig. 14 we look at the B/T ratios of our sample galaxies. In the top panel of Fig. 14, we plot the MS for both samples in bins of B/T, blue ($B/T < 0.2$), yellow ($0.2 < B/T < 0.5$), and red ($B/T > 0.5$). In the bottom panel,

we look at the stellar mass distributions of both samples in these same B/T bins. We note that the AMIGA-*WISE* sample (left) is primarily comprised of low B/T discy galaxies populating the full stellar mass range, with only a small portion of the sample in the high-mass range measuring large B/T values. These results are consistent with the work of Durbala et al. (2008) and Fernández Lorenzo et al. (2013), who demonstrated a prevalence of pseudo-bulges with low B/T values in subsamples of AMIGA galaxies. These studies made use of optical photometry, namely the CAS parameters and GALFIT to quantify bulge properties. This suggests that optical and MIR B/T measurements are in good agreement. In contrast to the isolated galaxies, a larger fraction of the pair sample has large B/T

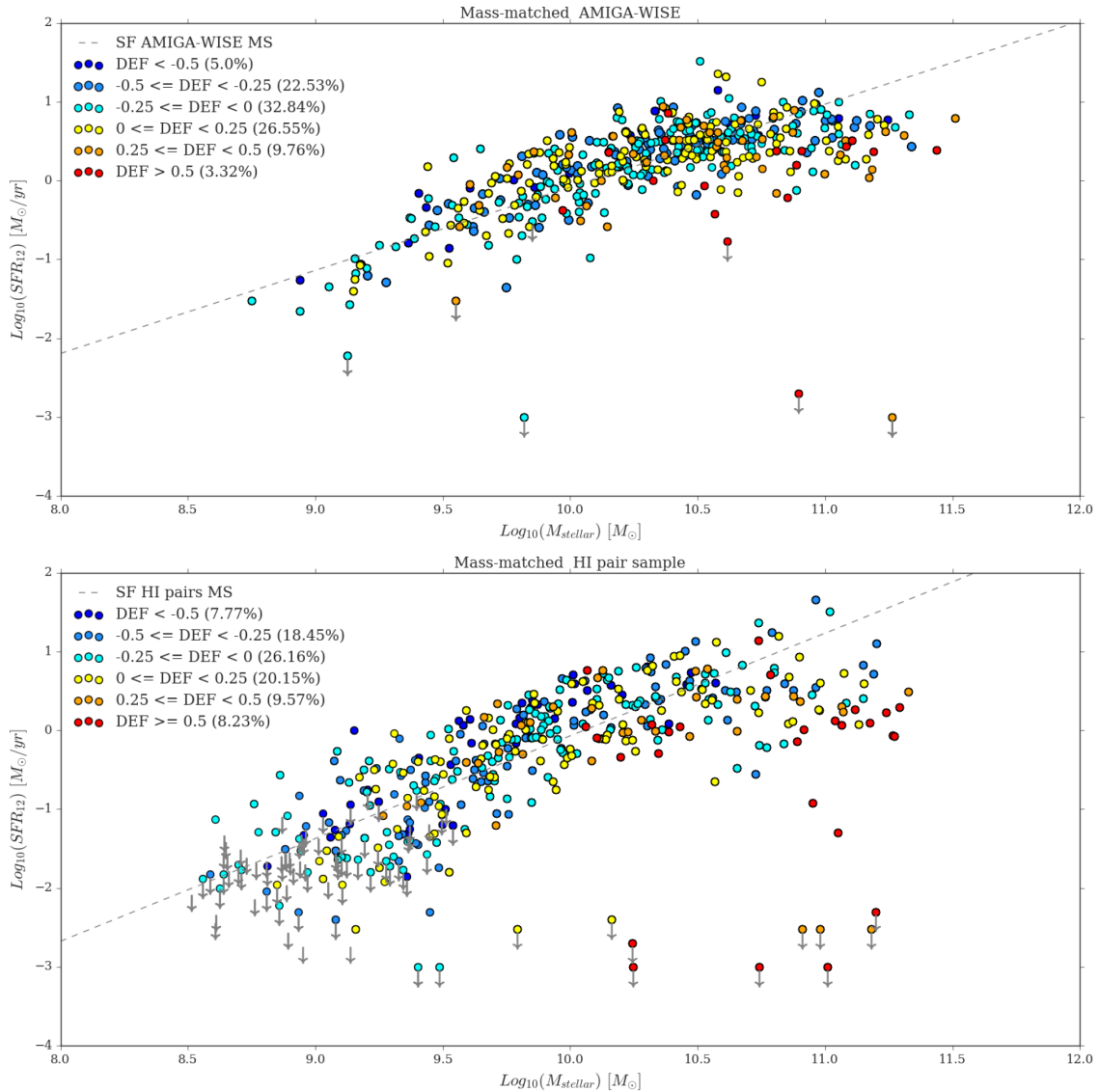


Figure 12. The SFR/ M_* sequence for the statistical AMIGA-WISE (top) and H I pair (bottom) samples colour coded by H I deficiency.

(bulgy galaxies) values, spanning a broader range of stellar mass values. The high-mass quenched galaxies in particular have large bulges, supporting a possible morphological quenching scenario. In this scenario the formation of a bulge stabilizes the disc against the gravitational collapse necessary for SF to occur (Bluck et al. 2014). Cook et al. (2019), however, find little evidence to suggest that the presence of a large bulge can alter the gas disc, and cautions interpreting the link between large bulges and quenched galaxies as causal. They suggest quenching processes are more likely occur at the source of in-flowing gas.

The lower mass, low-SFR galaxies are disc dominated, gas rich, with low H I deficiencies (excess H I), suggesting an alternative quenching mechanism in the low stellar mass regime. While the fuel for SF is abundant, the column density of the H I gas may be insufficient to ignite SF. The lack of SF in these galaxies might also be as a result of gravitational shock heating of their gas (Liu & Cen 2017). Alternatively, these galaxies have simply yet to reach the MS. While H I content is clearly important in moving galaxies along the

MS, it does not necessarily account for the distance travelled by galaxies above and below it. Future work will therefore include an investigation into the SF efficiency of our galaxies. With gas-rich galaxies found below the MS, and H I deficient galaxies found above it, the efficiency of converting gas into stars is an important quantity to consider next.

In the case of paired galaxies, the influence of other galaxies, in the broader/large-scale environment, such as harassment, strangulation, ram pressure stripping, and merging may be disrupting the flow of gas and suppressing SF in both the low- and high-mass quenched galaxies. The pair sample will be more closely examined in a future paper, which will include a visual inspection for signs of interaction, an analysis of the impact of multiplicity, and a quantitative assessment of the range of local environments using the AMIGA tidal influence and local number density parameters (Q and η). By establishing the broader pair environment more accurately and quantitatively, we will obtain a clearer picture of the role of environment in not only contributing to the suppression/enhancement of SF, but in driving the

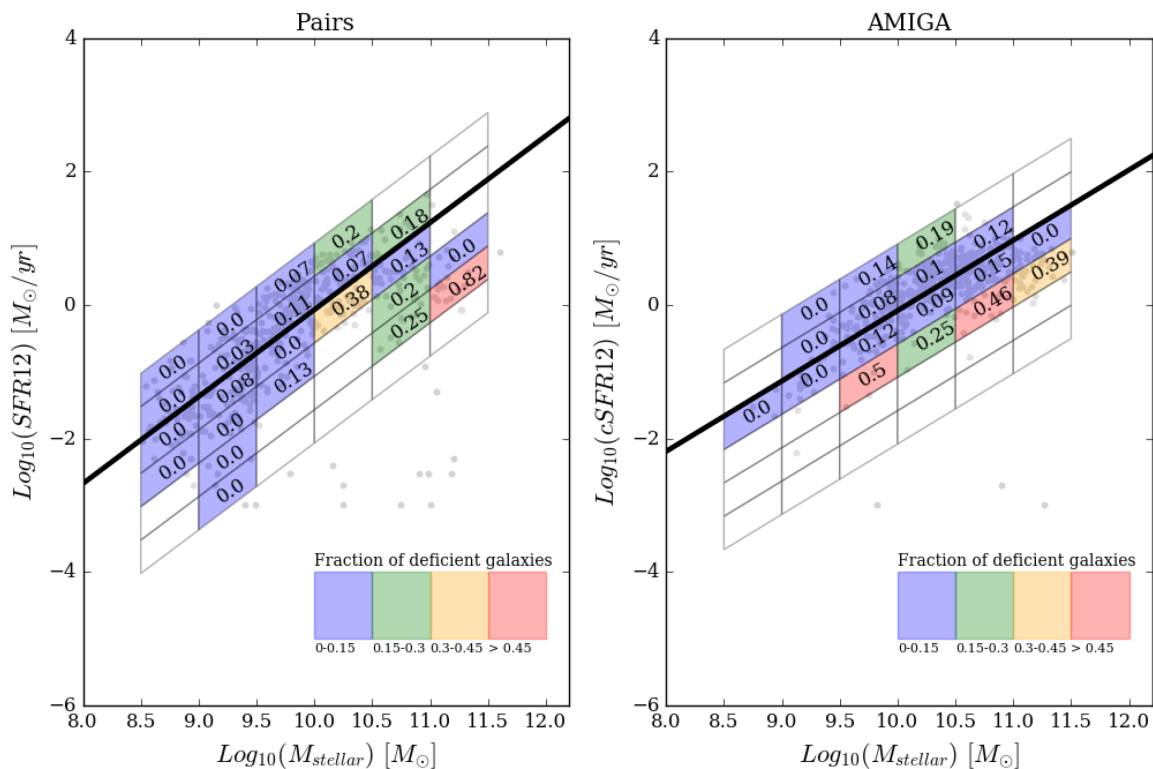


Figure 13. Fraction of H I deficient galaxies (DEF > 0.25) on the MS. Here, we compare the fractions of deficient galaxies below the MS between the pair (left) and isolated (right) galaxy samples in bins of width 0.5 dex in stellar mass, and height of 0.5 dex in SFR. The number in each bin refers to the fraction of galaxies in each bin that measure DEF > 0.25, and the bins are further colour coded as blue, green, orange, or red as per the colour bar key in the bottom-right corner of the plot. Bins with less than 2 galaxies are left blank.

observed scatter in the MS, potentially unlocking important pathways of galaxy evolution.

6 SUMMARY

This paper probes the role of both environment and H I content (gas fraction and H I deficiency) in determining a galaxy’s location on the MIR SFR- M_\star sequence. We summarize our main results here:

(i) We update the AMIGA H I scaling relation for isolated galaxies of Jones et al. (2018) using *WISE* stellar masses on the x -axis as opposed to the previously used optical B -band diameters and luminosities. This relation, equation (3), can be used as a baseline predictor of H I content in the absence of environmental influence, and we encourage its use in establishing the impact of environment on H I content by comparing it with galaxy samples in different environments.

(ii) We compare the SFR- M_\star sequence of the AMIGA-*WISE* H I sample with a sample of gas-rich H I pairs and compute the MS fit for both samples using HYPERFIT (equations 4 and 5). We observe a flatter slope for the AMIGA-*WISE* sample, as well as a reduced scatter compared to the H I pair sample ($\sigma = 0.37$ versus $\sigma = 0.55$). We attribute the tightness of the AMIGA-*WISE* MS to the isolated neighbourhood in which these galaxies are located, whereas the more stochastic behaviour of the H I pairs is likely the result of the more densely populated environments in which they live.

(iii) We compare the mass matched AMIGA-*WISE* gas fraction distribution to that of the H I pair sample and find that while the distribution medians are essentially identical, the significant

difference between the two distributions lies in the width. The pair sample gas fraction distribution is notably broader by eye, and quantitatively measures a larger scatter ($\sigma = 0.54$ versus $\sigma = 0.44$ for the AMIGA-*WISE* sample). We also track the behaviour of gas fraction on both the AMIGA-*WISE* and H I pair sample MS. In both samples, we observe a trend of decreasing gas fraction with increasing stellar mass. This suggests galaxies build up their stellar mass content via the consumption of H I fuel regardless of the environment in which they reside. The relationship between gas fraction and SFR, however, is non-linear, and does not reliably predict the location of a galaxy on the MS plane. High stellar mass galaxies with similarly low gas fractions are found both on the SF sequence and well below it.

(iv) The width of the AMIGA-*WISE* H I deficiency distribution is noticeably narrower than that of the pair sample, with a smaller standard deviation of $\sigma = 0.28$ compared to $\sigma = 0.34$ in the pairs. We also note that the pair sample dominates in both the high and low H I deficiency bins, suggesting the potential role of environment in simultaneously increasing and depleting H I content. The A-D test confirms a statistically significant difference between the samples.

(v) MIR B/T values measured in *WISE* show the AMIGA-*WISE* sample to be dominated by low B/T discy galaxies, in agreement with optical B/T measurements conducted by Durbala et al. (2008) and Fernández Lorenzo et al. (2013). In comparison, a higher frequency of large B/T values is observed in the pair sample, with some of the largest B/T values belonging to the high-mass quiescent population galaxies.

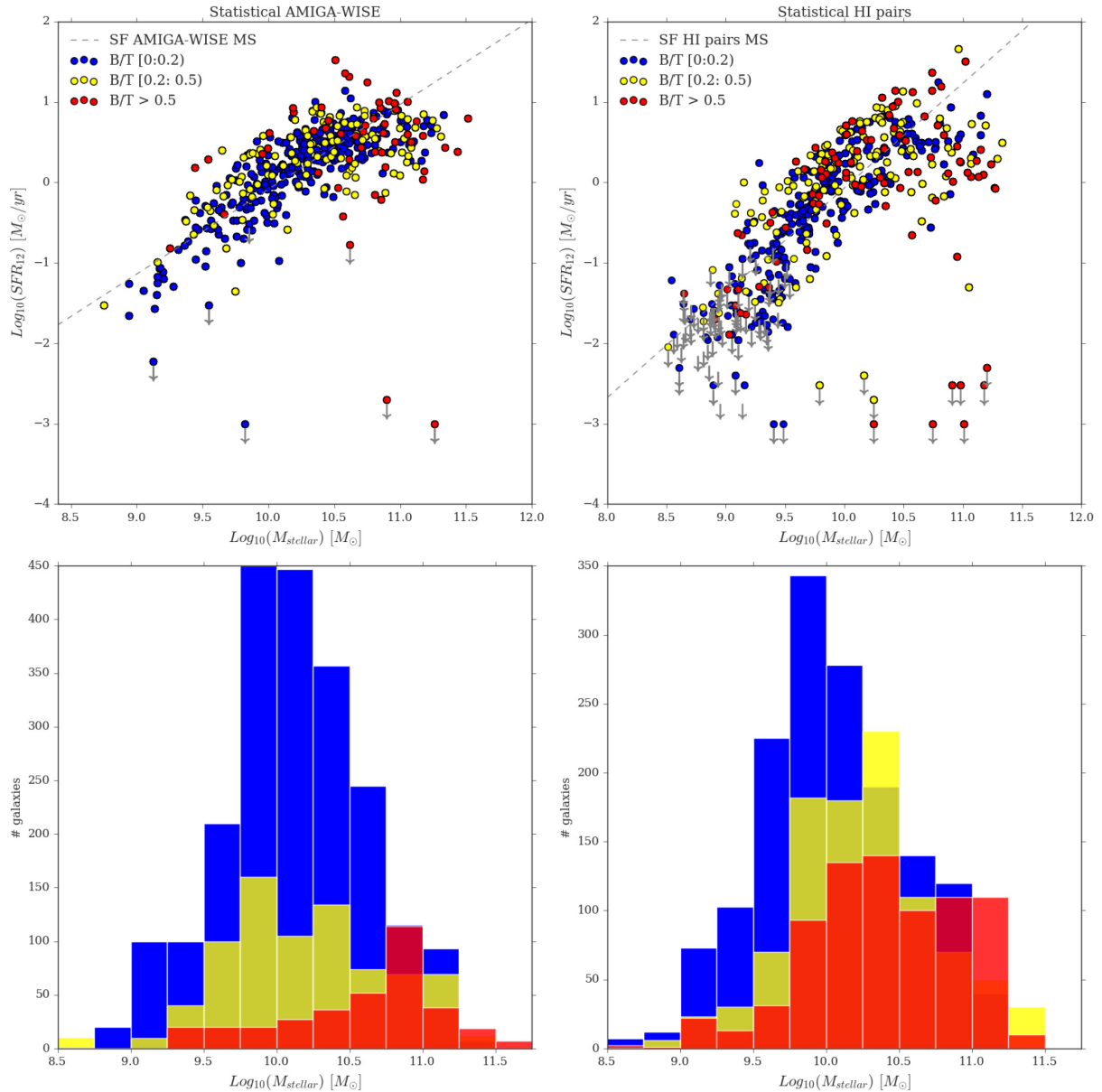


Figure 14. Top panel: the AMIGA-WISE (left) and HI pair (right) sample MS diagrams colour coded by B/T in bins of [0:0.2), [0.2:0.5), and B/T > 0.5 (indicated by blue, yellow, and red, respectively). Bottom panel: stellar mass distributions in the above-mentioned B/T bins for the AMIGA-WISE (left) and HI pair sample (right).

The AMIGA sample has previously been shown to have the lowest measured dispersion in various quantities (HI profile asymmetry (Espada et al. 2011), FIR emission (Lisenfeld et al. 2007), and g-r colour (Fernández Lorenzo et al. 2013), when compared to galaxies selected without isolation criteria considerations. Similarly, this work shows isolated galaxies to have a lower dispersion in both gas fraction and HI deficiency in comparison to a sample of galaxies in denser environments, as well as a reduced scatter on the SFR- M_{\star} sequence.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

The data underlying in this paper will be made available by request from J. Bok (email: jamie@ast.uct.ac.za).

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APPENDIX A: WISE DEBLENDING OF RESOLVED GALAXIES

Blending of resolved galaxies with other nearby (in projection) galaxies is a general problem for *WISE* because of its relatively large beam size, but is notably a feature of dense structures, such as galaxy clusters, compact groups, and pairs. Accordingly, deblending is a necessary component of *WISE* galaxy characterization pipelines. Jarrett et al. (2013), Jarrett et al. (2019) created a general processing pipeline that also includes expert interaction to carry out deblending operations. The success of the deblend for pair-galaxies depends on a few factors, including how close the pair members are located to each other, the relative brightness, the relative orientation (e.g. disc orientation for spirals), and the asymmetry of one or both of the pair galaxies. Sources that are too close (within or comparable to the beam of *WISE*) may not have acceptable deblended fluxes. Sources that are faint compared to their companion and located close to the companion core, may also not deblend well. Asymmetric sources (e.g. significant tidal distortion) are not easily modelled.

The principle assumption with these algorithms is that the galaxy light can be modelled using axisymmetric averaging to produce a smoothed, underlying surface brightness distribution. Each galaxy is modelled accordingly, masking the nearby galaxy, measuring the light shape at the 3σ isophotal level, fitting an ellipsoid to the 2D image, and then the approximate ellipsoid shape is used to subtract from the image instead of masking. Each iteration of the process, moving from one galaxy component to the next, creates a model that is closer to the actual light distribution for each galaxy of the pair. Several iterations are executed until convergence of the fitting metric is achieved. At this point, the expert user inspects the result, and makes adjustments to the original fitting parameters, including the disc orientation and axis ratio (for each galaxy in the pair), as well as any other emission that may not be relevant to the galaxy pair (stars, background galaxies, artefacts, etc.) The user then runs the pipeline with these new parameters, and repeats the cycle as needed. Additional masking may be required for residual subtractions near the nuclei and other high surface brightness regions. The deblend tends to work best for those pairs that have more than half their light unaffected by the blend (i.e. they are well separated). It becomes a significant challenge when most of the light is overlapping (e.g. with physical merging systems) or when the disc orientations are parallel (discs overlap in the same direction). A relatively simple case is for a blue-red pair, where one galaxy is star-forming, and the other is passive or quenched (appearing blue in *WISE* colours), because only two bands – W1 [$3.4\mu\text{m}$] and W2 [$4.6\mu\text{m}$] – have any blending. Whereas, for two SF galaxies all four *WISE* bands require deblend procedures.

An example of a galaxy pair in this current study that is clearly blended is the AGC 200466 – AGC 200463 system, both of which are SFGs. The nuclei are separated by 20 arcsec (12.92 kpc projection)

and approximately half of their light is overlapping with each other. Fig. A1 shows the four bands of *WISE* for this galaxy pair. It is clearly seen that AGC 200466 is the brighter of the two, and hence we can expect its final deblend to be higher quality than its fainter companion (AGC 200463). The deblend pipeline, after iterating the masking and subtraction procedure, constructs the axisymmetric models, shown in the second-row panel of Fig. A1. Visually, the models appear highly satisfactory, notably for the short-wavelength bands where the surface brightness is higher and angular resolution is better. Jarrett et al. (2012) note that the *WISE* angular resolution for drizzle-mosaiced images is about 6.0, 6.5, 7.1, and 12.4 arcsec for W1 [$3.4\mu\text{m}$], W2 [$4.6\mu\text{m}$], W3 [$12\mu\text{m}$], and W4 [$22\mu\text{m}$], respectively. The deblend pipeline assumes the same axisymmetric shape (based on W1 measurements) for all four bands, which is simplistic for the longer wavelengths but generally adequate for deblend purposes. Some additional circular, small-radius masking was carried out to suppress large subtraction residuals. The resulting deblended image for each galaxy of the pair is seen in the bottom panels of Fig. A1. The brighter companion (AGC 200466) has an excellent solution in all four bands: the deblend was successful. The fainter companion (AGC 200463) appears to be acceptable, although it clearly has some residual emission from the brighter companion to the south-east. This extra emission is estimated to be less than 10 per cent of the total, for this case.

In addition to the AGC 20466/3 system, we identify another five pairs in this study that have deblended measurements. We provide the 3-colour (W1 + W2 + W3) images of these systems, along with their solutions (again in 3-colour), shown in Fig. A2. All of these pairs are star-forming, and are relatively high stellar mass systems (see Fig. A3). The deblend solutions are adequate, with 10–20 per cent additional uncertainty, but well within the scatter of the SF-MS.

The first example, AGC 100166/7 shows a bright primary and a relatively faint secondary, while also contaminated by a nearby star. The star is ‘blue’, meaning it is only bright in W1 and W2, so it has potential to alter the stellar mass estimation, but not the SF. The deblend solution is satisfactory for the primary (100167), but may have some excess W3 emission for the secondary (100166). The second example is AGC 011984/5, two inclined discs blending at a sharp angle, with the brighter companion (11984) having its outer disc cross the nucleus of the fainter companion (11985). This represents a challenging deblend case because of the crossing orientation. It is clear that the brighter companion has its outer disc reduced by the deblend and recovery of the secondary (whose resulting deblend looks good). The third example, AGC 09618-1/2, is an insidious case in which the two discs are blending in parallel, making it difficult to distinguish between the two. The deblend solutions look adequate to the eye, but clearly there is some uncertainty in this case. The final two cases have pair angular separations such that the deblend solution was clean, and clearly extracted sources successfully. It is interesting to note, the last example, AGC 12914/5, is the famous ‘Taffy’ interaction system, in which both galaxies are greatly disturbed – and hence highly asymmetric – and likely active by tidal-triggering (Jarrett et al. 1999). Nevertheless, the separations are large enough for the deblend pipeline to clearly separate the pair components.

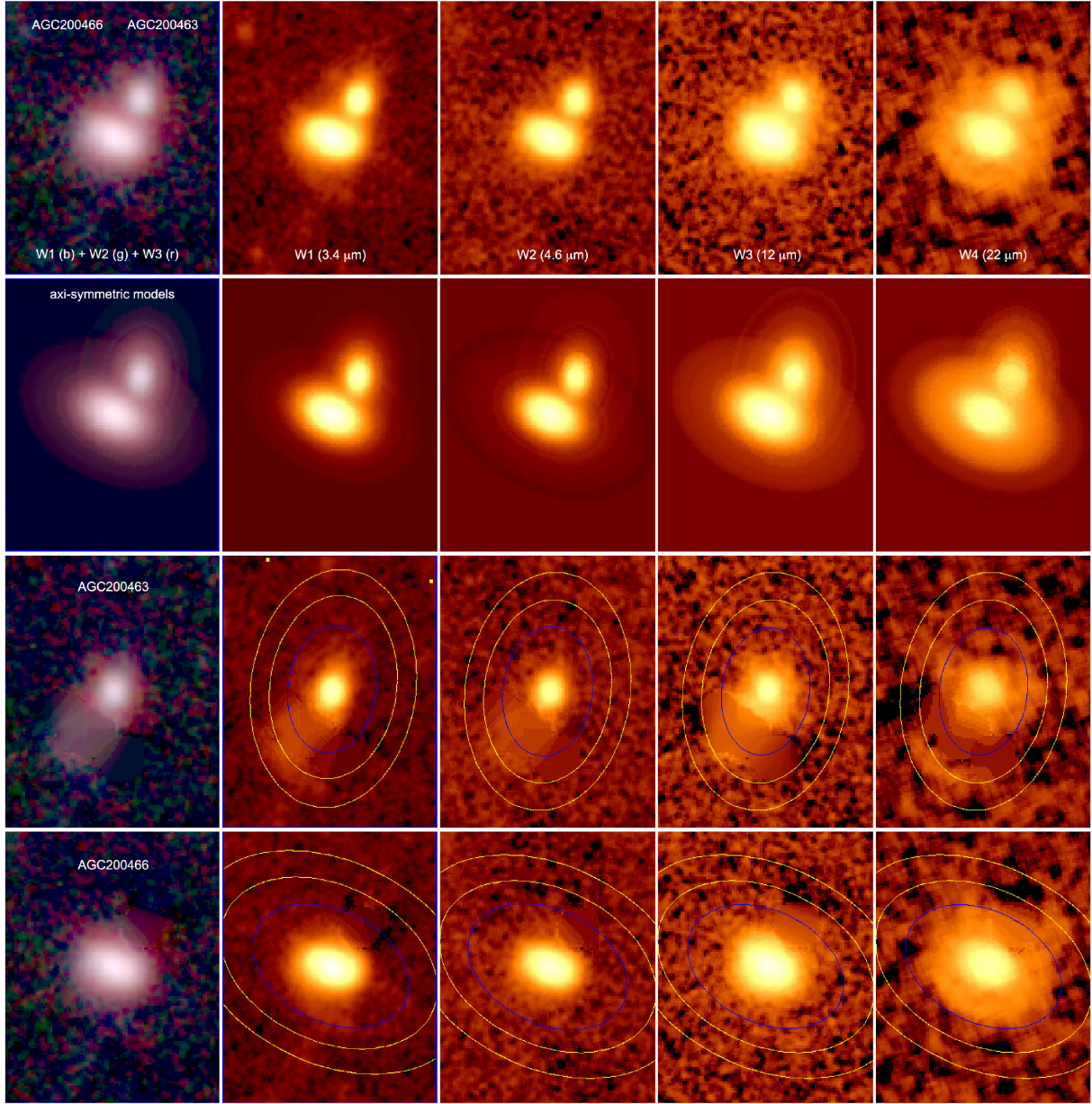


Figure A1. *WISE* view of the galaxy pair AGC 200466 and AGC 200463, deblended using the user-interaction pipeline of Jarrett et al. (2019). The top panel shows the four bands of *WISE*, and a 3-colour combination. Note, both galaxies are gas rich and star forming; hence all four bands require deblend. The middle panel shows the resulting axisymmetric models that represent the smoothed and symmetric emission from each galaxy. The bottom two panels show the resulting deblend for each galaxy pair, with their respective 1σ isophotal apertures (blue ellipse) and background sky annuli (yellow). The field of view is 46 arcsec.

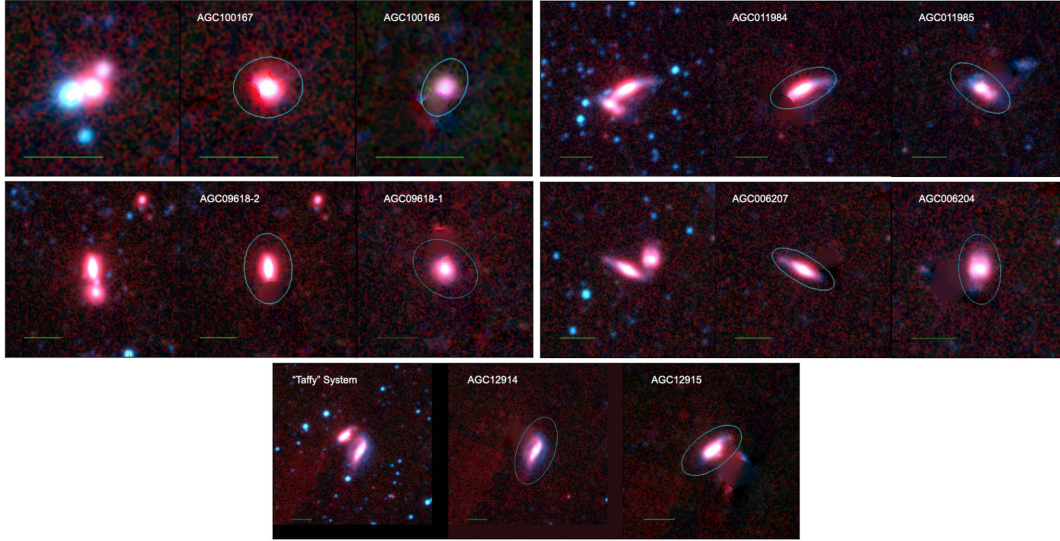


Figure A2. Deblended pair systems in this study. These five systems have been identified as having significant blending, notably the first three in the sequence shown here. The images are visualized using three bands of *WISE*: W1 [$3.4\ \mu\text{m}$] in blue, W2 [$4.6\ \mu\text{m}$] in green, and W3 [$12\ \mu\text{m}$] in red. The green dash indicates 1-arcmin scale.

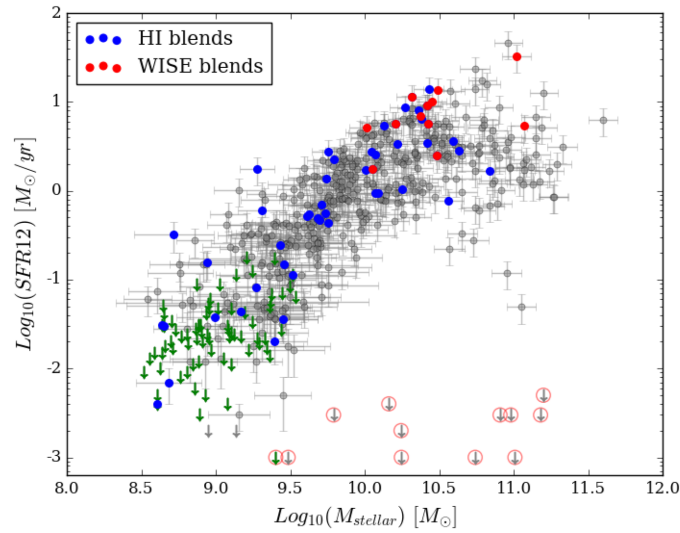


Figure A3. The pair MS of Fig. 6(b) with the location of all noted H I blends highlighted in blue, and *WISE* blends highlighted in red. Based on the locations of these blends (i.e. not outliers) we pose that blending in general does not appear to be driving the scatter in the pair MS, nor the consequent observed difference in scatter between the pair and isolated galaxy samples.

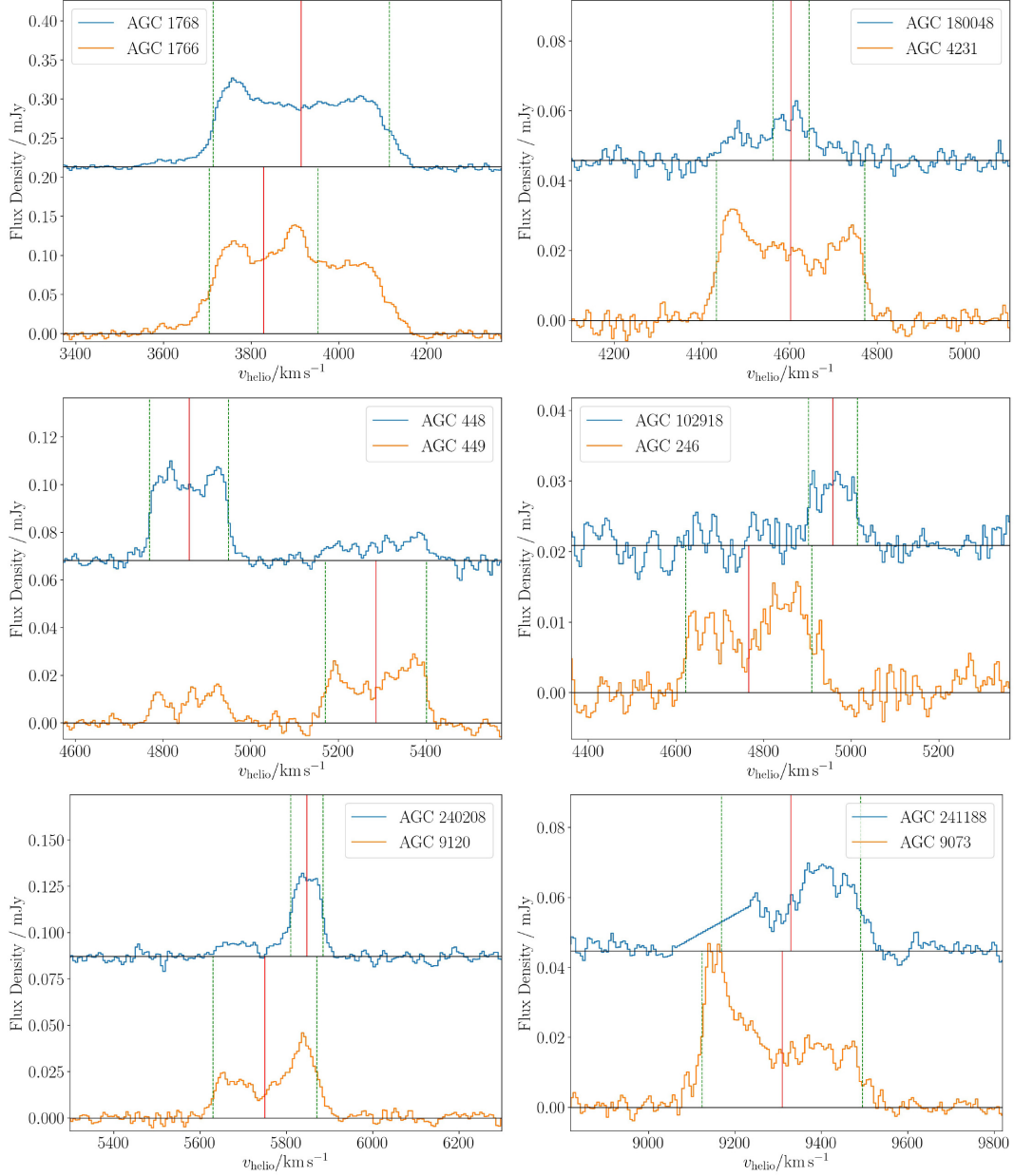


Figure A4. Representative cases of H I blending in the pair sample.

APPENDIX B: EXAMPLE CASES OF BLENDING IN H I

We exclude a total of 49 pair members from our H I analysis on the basis of being in a blend too severe to render reliable H I data, as reported by the ALFALFA extraction team. A representative example of such a case is demonstrated by the pair AGC 1766/1768, where it is impossible to allocate which flux belongs to each galaxy due to their spectra completely overlapping in velocity space (see first plot in Fig. A4). In this instance, both galaxies were removed from our analysis. The second plot is an example of a dwarf companion (AGC 180048) sitting on the H I flux pedestal of its parent (AGC 4231). We exclude AGC 180048 from our sample since it is impossible to accurately measure its flux, however we keep AGC 4231. The remaining plots in Fig. A4 are examples of pair members that were not excluded from our analysis despite being flagged as in some sort of blend by the ALFALFA team. In these instances, the blend is

noted as not severe, and the H I properties are regarded as reliable by the ALFALFA team. The pair members AGC 448/449, for example, are very close together on the sky and therefore noted as in a blend, but separated enough in velocity to prevent significant blending of their profiles. No significant blending was reported for the pair AGC 246/102918 since the sources are separated just enough on the plane of the sky. The pair AGC 240208/9120 is an example where there is definite blending between the sources, but it does not appear to be severe. The blending here was noted, but both sources were kept. In the pair AGC 241188/9073, one side of the profile was extrapolated by the ALFALFA team to prevent significant blending. This was noted, but both sources were kept. These cases are extremely rare.

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